# Black Butler

YANA TOBOSO

XII

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CHAPTER 28

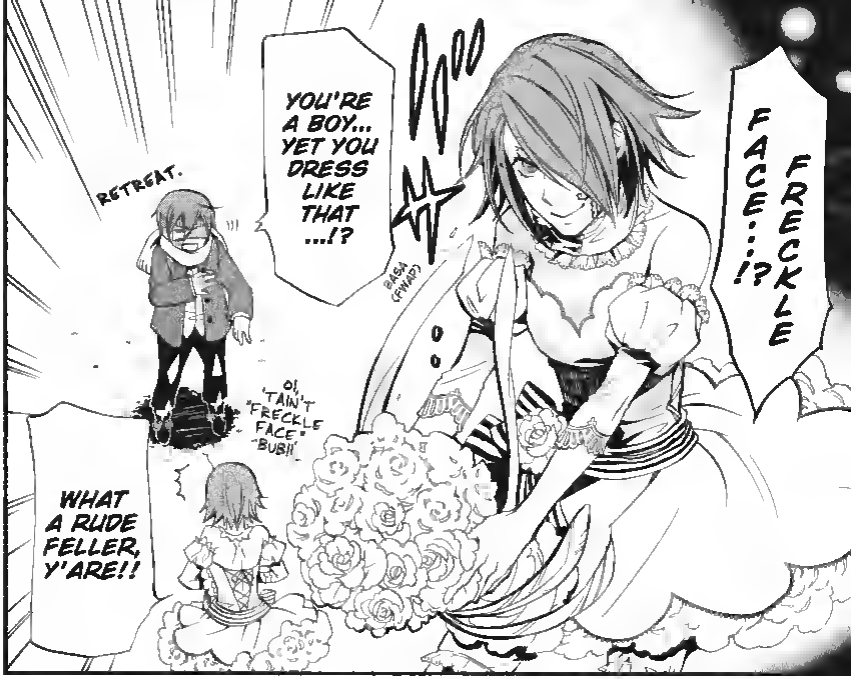
# *In the morning : The Butler, Parleying*

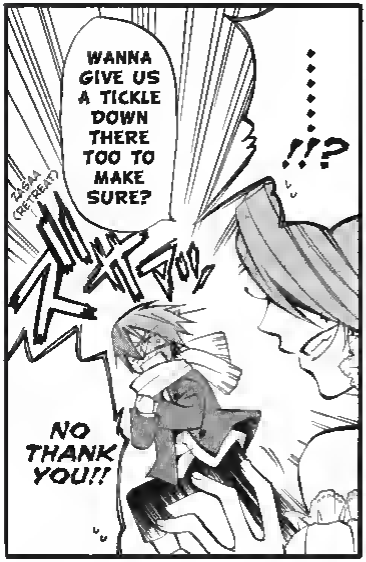
HEY.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
SE—
DON'T MOVE.
GA (GRAB)

WOT'S DOLL DOIN'?
HEEEY THEERE, DOOOLL!
EYUU TWITCH)
!!
SNAKE!!
SFX: BICHI (SQUIRM) BICHI
WHY, YE—!
KEEP 'EM TO YER TENT LIKE YE OUGHT!
DON'T WE KEEP SAYIN' TO NOT LET THESE BUGGERS HAVE FREE REIN OF THE PLACE?
EEEE!
?
ZUI (SHOVE)
A DEADLY SNAKE WAS ROAMIN' 'ROUND.
UWAH!

.....
I DON'T WANNA GIVE UP THE GHOST ALL SUDDEN 'N' UNAWARES, LIKE!
SHUIRU (SLITHER)
SHEESH, GIVE US A BREAK, MATE!
.....
SFX: KURU (FWIP)
THIS WAY.
!?
QUICK!
!?
?

DON'T TOUCH THAT ROPE.
WE OUGHT TO BE SAFE HERE.
HAH!
HAAH!
WH—
WHY DID YOU RESC—
KOFF!
HAAH!
YA DON'T RECOGNISE ME YET?
SHU (SHWP)
IT'S ME.
ME!
BASA (FWAP)
AH.....


FRECKLE FACE...!?
YOU'RE A BOY... YET YOU DRESS LIKE THAT ...!?
ZASA (PWAP)
RETREAT.
OI, 'TAIN'T "FRECKLE FACE," BUB!!
WHAT A RUDE FELLER, Y'ARE!!

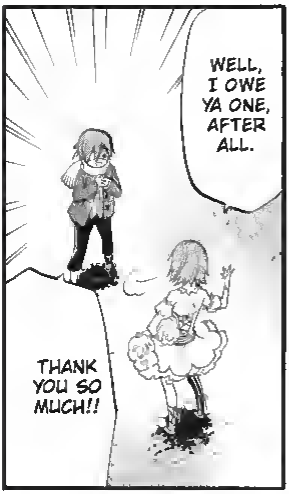

WANNA GIVE US A TICKLE DOWN THERE TOO TO MAKE SURE?
.....!?
ZASA (RETREAT)
NO THANK YOU!!

I'M A PURE, HONEST-TO-GOODNESS MAID, I AM.
SEE?
FUNYU (SQUISH)

WELL ?
KOFF!
WHY WERE YA O'ER THERE?
YA HEARD 'BOUT THE VENOMOUS SNAKES FROM BROTHER JOKER, DIN'TCHA?
ERM...
.....
NO CHOICE BUT TO PLAY IT LIKE I'M A THIEF FOR THE PRESENT, HM?
I'M SORRY !!
I HAVEN'T MESSED WITH OR TAKEN ANYTHING AT ALL TODAY. I SWEAR!
PLEASE DON'T KICK ME OUT OF HERE!
TODAY!? YOU!
I LIVED IN THE EAST END BEFORE I WAS A PAGE BOY.. AND I DID EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO SURVIVE.
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T STEAL, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO BREAK THE BAD HABITS FROM BACK THEN...
EVEN AT THE MANOR, WHEN THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT IT...
..I—! IF I'M THROWN OUT OF HERE, I'LL HAVE TO RETURN TO THE EAST END AGAIN —!

NO! I SWEAR TO GOD.
SO YA REALLY HAVEN'T STOLEN ANYTHIN', YEAH?
.....

WAS MY ACTING TOO OBVIOUS?


WELL, I OWE YA ONE, AFTER ALL.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

OHHH, AAALL RIGHT.
TH—
THEN —!?

PAKU CYMTOOD

...I WRONGED YA THIS AFTER-NOON.
EVERY-ONE'S GOT ONE OR TWO THINGS THEY DON'T WANT NO ONE TO KNOW.
I KNOW THAT, BUT...

BUT DON'TCHA EVER SNEAK IN HERE AGAIN OR NOTHIN', YA HEAR !?
YES'M!
SO I'LL KEEP YER SECRET FOR YA.
NOW WE'RE EVEN.
AND I SLEEP BETTER WHEN SOMEONE ELSE'S WITH ME, LIKE.
K-#!
UM... MAY I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
WHY ARE YOU SHARING A TENT WITH ME WHEN YOU'RE PART OF THE FIRST STRING?
AHHH..
I DON'T LIKE BEIN' IN A ROOM BY MESELF.
SAY
YER GONNA KEEP SHARIN' WITH ME EVEN THOUGH I'M IN THE FIRST STRING, RIGHT?
YES, BY ALL MEANS.

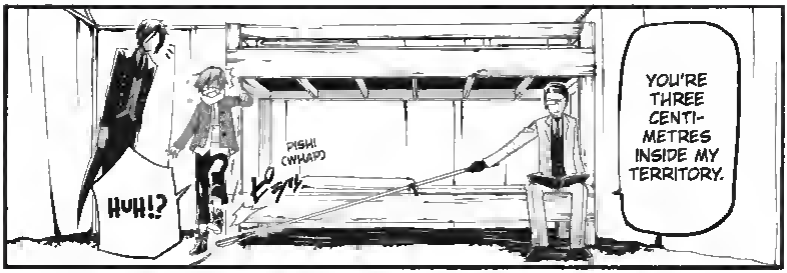
YES.
EH HEH HEH!
I'M GLAD!
THEN THE STUFF THAT WENT ON 'ERE STAYS BETWEEN US, YEAH?
BUT... THAT SAID, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT THIS PERSON WON'T TELL ANYONE.

HUMANS LIE WITHOUT COMPUNCTION.

BASA (FLAP)
YOUNG MAS-TER.
YOU CUR ...
HAAH!
YOU SET THE VENOMOUS SNAKES FREE EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW I WAS STILL THERE, DIDN'T YOU?
HAH!
YES.
OF COURSE, THAT APPLIES TO ME AS WELL.

YOUR ORDER WAS TO RETURN IN ADVANCE OF THE FIRST STRING AND SET THE SNAKES FREE.
DID I NOT BUT CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS TO THE LETTER?
HEH HEH!
HAAH...
WHYEVER ARE YOU BESTOWING ME WITH SUCH A BALEFUL GLARE?
HEH!
PLEASE BE AT EASE. I SHALL PROTECT YOUR LIFE AS LONG AS OUR COVENANT HOLDS— HOWEVER ...
GU (CLENCH)
...YOU WERE WELL AWARE THAT IF YOU MADE A MISTAKE IN YOUR PLANS, YOU COULD HAVE SUFFERED BODILY HARM TO THE POINT OF DEATH, NO?
EVERY *GAME* MUST HAVE ITS THRILLS, AFTER ALL.

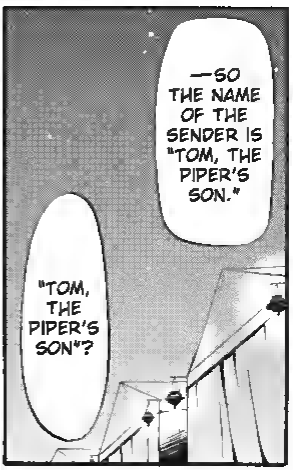
AS YOUNG MASTER IS INSATIABLE WHEN IT COMES TO GAMES, I ASSUMED YOU FELT THE SAME WAY.
HAH!
YOUR IDEA OF SPORT IS IN SUCH BAD TASTE, IT FAIR MAKES ME RETCH...
...YOU DEVIL!
I AM FLATTERED.
COUGH!
FORGET IT.
AFTER WE PARTED, I FOUND A LETTER THAT HAD MY NAME WRITTEN ON IT IN THAT CLOWN JOKER'S TENT.
COUGH!
FROM WHAT I COULD GATHER, IT ALSO CONTAINED MY PEERAGE, THE LOCATION OF THE MANOR, AND EVEN A BRIEF PERSONAL HISTORY.
THE ENDER AS—
YOU THERE.


HUH!?
PISH! (WHAP)
YOU'RE THREE CENTI-METRES INSIDE MY TERRITORY.

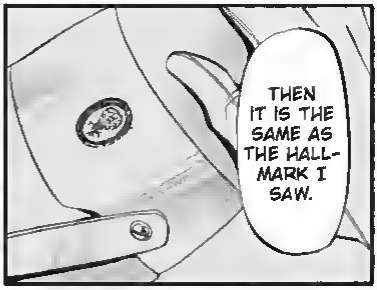
KOFFI
SEBAS-TIAN, LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE.
YES, SIR.

KACHIN (SNAP)
I SEE THE DOG TAKES AFTER ITS MASTER.
IT IS CLEAR NEITHER OF YOU ARE ABLE TO OBSERVE THE LINES WE HAVE DRAWN.

AND THE SEAL WAX HAD A DEVICE WITH A HORSE AND THE INITIAL "K" ON IT.
KOFFI
IT'S A CHARACTER FROM THE NURSERY RHYMES OF MOTHER GOOSE. THOUGH I CAN'T SAY I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS...


"TOM, THE PIPER'S SON"?
—SO THE NAME OF THE SENDER IS "TOM, THE PIPER'S SON."

THUS...
...*TOM, THE PIPER'S SON* IS SOMEONE WHOSE FAMILY COAT OF ARMS CONTAINS A HORSE.
A CREST WITH SUCH A DESIGN WOULD TYPICALLY BELONG TO THOSE UPON WHOM KNIGHTHOOD HAS BEEN CONFERRED OR MILITARY PERSONNEL.
KOFF!
I WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT'S THE RULE, BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO BE A PHILANTHROPIST WITHOUT A CERTAIN SOCIAL STATUS.


THEN IT IS THE SAME AS THE HALLMARK I SAW.

A SIGNET RING IS USUALLY ENGRAVED WITH A MOTIF AND INITIALS REPRESENTING THE BEARER OR HIS FAMILY CREST.
YES.

ALL HERALDIC DEVICES ARE RECORDED AT THE COLLEGE OF ARMS.
HYUU (GASP)
KOFF!
WITH ALL THESE CLUES IN HAND, I TRUST YOU CAN FIND THE CREST WE SEEK, HOWEVER GREAT THE NUMBER OF RECORDS MAY BE.
COLLEGE OF ARMS
HYUU
?
THE MISSING CHILDREN. THE CIRCUS. TOM, THE PIPER'S SON.
AND I.
HYUU
WHAT IS IT THAT CONNECTS THESE DISPARATE PIECE—
KOFF!

YOUNG MAS-TER?
IN ANY CASE, WE'LL GO BACK TO THE TOWN HOUSE ONCE—
KOFF!
KOFF! KOFF! HACK!
KOFF! KOFF! GHAK! HRK!
YOUNG MASTER? IS SOME-THING WRONG?
GOBO (GLOP)
BASHA (SPLASH)
...UEH!
URK!
KOFF!
YOUNG MAS-TER!?
HKKK!
OEK...
YO—
SMILE!?
WHAT IS IT!? OI!
ANG'N THERE!
YOUNG MASTER! WHAT IS THE—
KOFF! KOFF! UEH...!
KOFF! HACK

IF HE HADN'T HAD AN ATTACK IN THREE YEARS, I'D THINK THE ASTHMA WAS JUST ABOUT CURED, BUT—
ASTHMA... YOU SAY? IN THE THREE YEARS I HAVE BEEN WITH HIM, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM IN THIS STATE.
HE'S GOT ASTHMA.
HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE IS ACTUALLY QUITE TOUGH.
HE HAS CAUGHT A COLD ONCE OR TWICE, BUT HE HAS NEVER HAD AN ATTACK LIKE THIS...
I WOULD SAY THE BUILDUP OF MANY FACTORS MUST'VE CAUSED THIS.
ZEE (WHEEZE)
ZEE
THAT SAID, BEING EXPOSED TO SUDDEN COLD OR STRESS... OR CATCHING A COLD COULD TRIGGER A RECURRENCE.
ZEE
HYUUU (GASP)
.....
WON-DERFUL! YOU'VE COME BACK TO US!
HACHI (ACHOO)
AH.
FIRST OFF, I HEAR HE BATHED IN THE OPEN AIR WITH OUR RESIDENT MEATHEADS? OF COURSE HE'D CATCH A COLD.

SMILE.
DIDN'T YOU HAVE HORRIBLE ASTHMA WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE?
JYUU (SLURP)
HERE YOU ARE.
CHAPU (SLURP)
Water

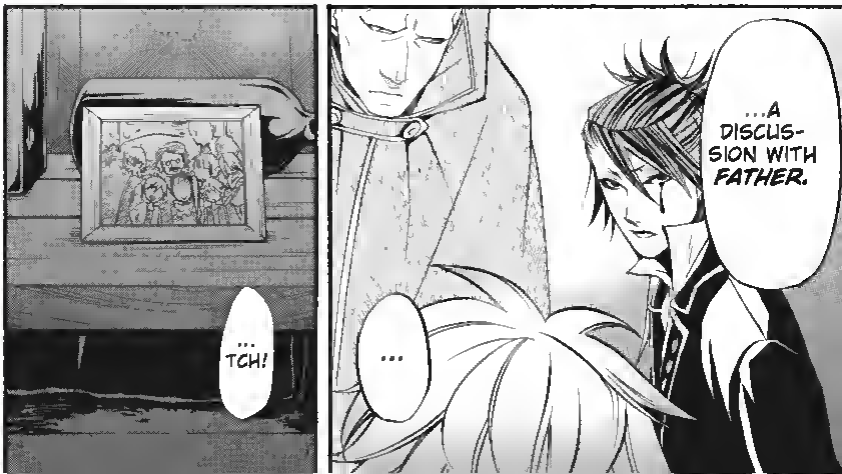
IT CAN BE FATAL, SO YOU MUST BE CAREFUL EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU'VE RECOVERED FROM IT.

—WHAT!?
NOW, AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, OUT! BACK TO YOUR TENTS!
YOU STAY IN BED UNTIL YOUR FEVER AND COUGH ARE GONE! GOT IT!?

BLACK 'N' SMILE SNUCK IN?
FOR WHAT?
DUNNO... I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT MUCH.
—SAYS WORDS-WORTH.
HISSSH
SAY, CAN YE REALLY TALK WIV 'EM SNAKES?
HOW DARE YOU DOUBT ME, YOU DUNCE!!
—SAYS WORDS-WORTH.
WHY DIDN'T YE TELL ME RIGHT OFF, HM?
.....
HOLY CRUDES
HAAAH
OHH NEVER YE MIND. YE'VE DONE WELL.
OFF WITH YE NOW.
GOOD NIIIGHT.
—SAYS WORDS-WORTH.

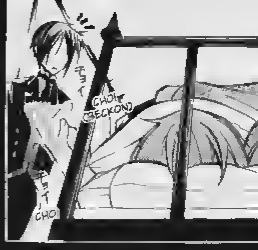
...MAYBE THEY'VE FOUND US OUT...
DARN THAT DOLL.
DOLL'S TOO MUCH OF A NIPPER YET!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANNA TAKE 'ER WIV US.
HOW'S ABOUT WE DEAL WIV IT QUICK AND GET RID OF 'EM TONIGHT?
PLEASE WAIT.

YOU'RE RIGHT. IF THOSE TWO ARE CONNECTED TO THE YARD, KILLING 'EM WOULD CAUSE US NO END OF GRIEF.
THIS CALLS FOR...


...A DISCUS-SION WITH *FATHER.*
...
... TCH!

KAFI
HACK!
GUULI (SNORE)
!?
!!?
KUKAA (ZZZ)
ZUZU (SUU)
KOFFI
GORO (ROLL)
.....
NO WONDER I COULDN'T SLEEP WELL...
SO HEAVY
YOU CALLED?
SU (SWF)
...Come, Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN.
I COMMAND YOU.

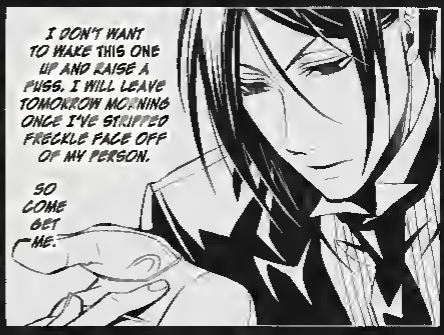

CHOI (BECKON)
CHO

TON (TAP)
TON

EDINBURGH HAS THE "COURT OF THE LORD LYON."
LONDON HAS THE "COLLEGE OF ARMS" OR "HERALDS' COLLEGE."

SARA
SARA (SLIDE)
GO TO THE HERALDRY OFFICE AND IDENTIFY THE MAN WITH THAT SIGNET RING.

SU (SWIP)

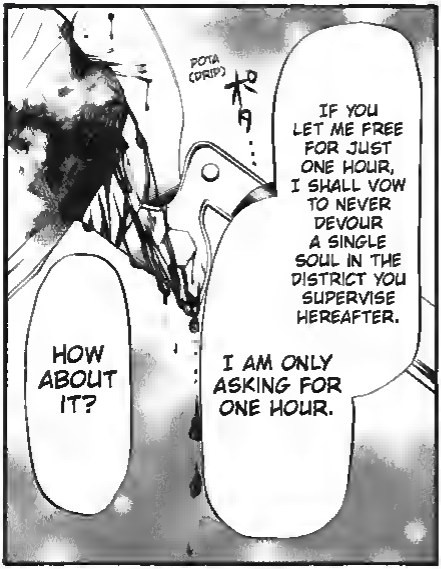

I DON'T WANT TO WAKE THIS ONE UP AND RAISE A FUSS. I WILL LEAVE TOMORROW MORNING ONCE I'VE STRIPPED FRECKLE FACE OFF OF MY PERSON.
SO COME GET ME.

...Ah, yes.
YES...
...MY LORD
FIRST TO LONDON—
WELL THEN ...
YOU KNEW FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
.....!!!
I shall not tell Lady Elizabeth that you shared a bed with another woman, so please rest easy.
!!
HA (GASP)

KIN (CLANG)
SUTO (TMP)
AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
I HAVE TOLD YOU NOT TO WANDER AROUND WITHOUT YOUR OWNER.
UN-FORTUNATELY, MY MASTER IS CONFINED TO HIS BED, SO I AM RUNNING AN ERRAND IN HIS STEAD.
KASHIN (CLANG)
I WILL NOT ALLOW ANY EXCEPTIONS.
RETURN TO THE TENT AT ONCE.
I CANNOT HAVE YOU ACTING INDE-PENDENTLY UNTIL MY JUDGMENT IS COMPLETE.

THE MOST SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT ERROR CAN LEAD TO LENGTHY OVERTIME!
!?
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
HOW-EVER, I TOO HAVE MY DUTIES AS A BUTLER TO SEE TO.
I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO DISTURB MY MASTER'S SLEEP.

AND YOU DO NOT REALLY WISH TO MAKE A SCENE HERE.
WHAT DO YOU SAY...


POTA (DRIP)
IF YOU LET ME FREE FOR JUST ONE HOUR, I SHALL VOW TO NEVER DEVOUR A SINGLE SOUL IN THE DISTRICT YOU SUPERVISE HEREAFTER.
I AM ONLY ASKING FOR ONE HOUR.
HOW ABOUT IT?

...WE MAKE A DEAL?
PIKU (TWITCH)

ZURU (SLIP)
YOU SWAY YOUR PREY WITH SWEET WORDS, ALL THE WHILE DRAGGING THEM INTO THE DARKNESS.

I REFUSE!

SO YOU REFUSE ME IN THE END.
VERY WELL.
BI (SWING)
YOU DEVILS ARE SO GOOD AT IT THAT, IT'S PRACTICALLY A CLICHÉ!
GOOD GRIEF!
I SHALL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE THEN.
AYE. JUST NIPPING OUT TO FATHER'S FOR A BIT.
GOIN' SOMEWHERE?

LET'S GIVE THIS A REST.
WHAT ABOUT YE? CAN'T SLEEP?
WE'VE GOT THIS CIRCUS.
I'M SURE WE CAN GET BY.
SO LET'S WASH OUR HANDS OF THIS BUSINESS AND RUN AWAY TO WHERE FATHER CAN'T FIND US.
I'VE NO TIME TO BE CHATTING 'BOUT THIS WITH YE.
"OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY"... IS THAT IT?
THAT'S NOT POS-SIBLE.

WAIT!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YE? 'TAIN'T LIKE YE TO BE ACTING LIKE THIS.
THIS IS SOMETHING WE SET OUR MINDS TO DOING.
WE DECIDED WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US...
BUT... BUT I JUST CAN'T BEAR TO SEE YOUR PAINED EXPRESSION ANYMORE!!
...AND DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
GRUH (GOUGE)
'COS I...

WE CAN NO LONGER TURN BACK.
'AVE YE FOR-GOTTEN?
ぐっ…
GU (GRIT)
SFX: FUWA (FLUFF)
JOKER!
'NIGHT!
GO ON. KEEPIN' LATE HOURS, 'TIS BAD FOR YE.

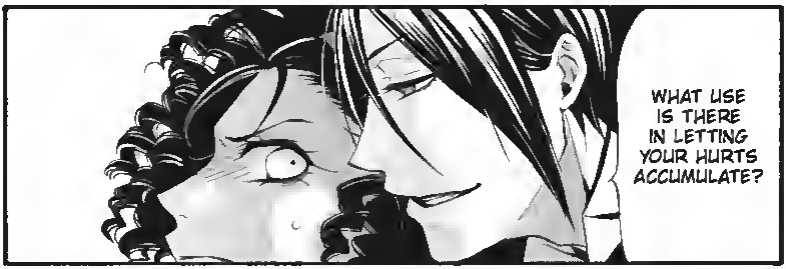
DEAR, OH DEAR.
ARE THOSE TEARS I SPY?
YOU....!
THIS'S NAUGHT TO DO WITH YOU!
YOU'LL GET LOST QUICK IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
HEH HEH
YOU DO NOT HAVE EVEN A PASSING CHANCE THERE IF YOU ASK ME

WHA—!
IT IS USELESS TO HAVE YOUR HEART SET ON SOMEONE LIKE HIM AND NO OTHER...
...SOMEONE WHO IS KIND TO YOU, FOR HE CANNOT RETURN YOUR AFFECTIONS, EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS THAT DOING SO WILL MAKE YOU SUFFER EVEN MORE.
HOW CRUEL.

JUST HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN CARRYING ON LIKE THIS?
スル…
SURU (STROKE)
WITH THESE UNHAPPY TEARS AND A RELATIONSHIP THAT ONLY GIVES RISE TO MAUDLIN SENTIMENT.

WHAT THE BLOODY HELL D'YOU UNDER-STAND!?
NOT A JOT, AS OF YET.
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I DO KNOW.

ENOUGH OF YOUR JOKING. LET ME GO!!
I AM NOT JOKING.
A WAY TO RELEASE YOU FROM THAT PAIN, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT.

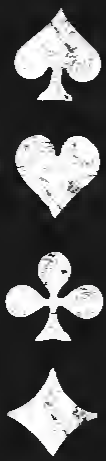

WHAT USE IS THERE IN LETTING YOUR HURTS ACCUMULATE?

REGARDLESS OF HOW DESPERATELY YOU SHOUT, HE WILL NEVER LOOK BACK.
THE WEIGHT OF THOSE EMOTIONS KEEPS YOU FROM MOVING EITHER FORWARD OR BACK.

YOU POOR THING.
IT HURTS. YES? YOU WANT TO PUSH IT ALL FROM YOUR MIND DO YOU NOT?
.....!!
HE SWAYS HIS PREY...
EVERY-THING ABOUT THAT CRUEL-AND-KIND MAN.
I-I ...!
...WITH SWEET WORDS, ALL THE WHILE DRAGGING THEM INTO THE DARKNESS.

SO THE QUARRY DOES NOT NOTICE THE FACE OF THE BEAST THAT LURKS BEHIND IT...
...HE PROCEEDS CLEVERLY...
...SWEETLY...
...QUIETLY...
THEN WHY NOT FORGET JUST FOR TONIGHT?
DROWN IN PLEASURE ...
...AND BREATHE SWEET POISON DEEP INTO YOUR LUNGS.

YOU'RE LIKE THE DEVIL TALKING IN WHISPERS ...
I WANT ONLY TO KNOW.
TO KNOW THAT SECRET PLACE DEEP WITHIN YOU.



# Black Butler

Chapter 29

# *At noon : The Butler, Scandalous*

IT'S BEEN THIS WAY FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
HE JUST NEVER SAYS THE WORDS I LONG TO HEAR.
HE GOT EVEN MORE DISTANT WHEN FATHER PUT HIM IN CHARGE OF THE NOAH'S ARK TROUPE.
FATHER?

HE AIDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ARTIFICIAL LIMBS AND GRANTED US NEW BODIES.
OUR PATRON.
THEN THIS HALLMARK BELONGS TO "FATHER"?
THAT'S RIGHT. WE ALL BELONG TO FATHER.
—WHAT IS HIS NAME?

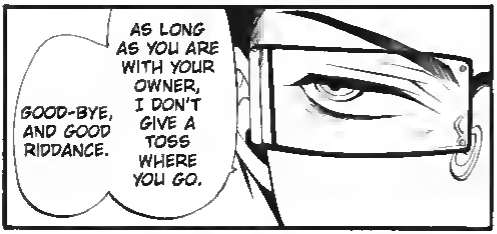
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW? .....NN!
AH...
I CANNOT GREET HIM PROPERLY IF I DO NOT EVEN KNOW HIS NAME.
YOU AND I ARE NO LONGER MERE ACQUAIN-TANCES, AFTER ALL...
...SO YOU CAN TELL ME, CAN'T YOU?

FATHER IS—
—NN!!
HIYA (COOL)

GOOD MORNING. IT SEEMS YOUR FEVER HAS BROKEN.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
HIYARI (COLD)
SE... TIAN?
PIKU (BLINK)
KOFFI
NOT GREAT, BUT BETTER THAN YESTERDAY.
KOFFI
PLEASE HAVE SOME WATER.
AAH... NN?
DID FRECKLE FACE GO TO BREAKFAST ALREADY ...?
KOFFI

I AM AFRAID I GOT THEM A LITTLE DIRTY.
NIKO (SMILE)
?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GLOVES?
YOUR NAILS AND THE SEAL OF THE COVENANT ARE SHOWING
OHH.
WELL, THAT ASIDE, I DO HOPE YOU TOOK CARE OF THE ERRAND I LEFT TO YOU?
KOFFI
YES, INDEED.
HYO! (LIFT)
COME.
THERE IS NO NEED TO LINGER HERE FURTHER. LET US MAKE OUR EXIT WHILE EVERYONE IS BREAKING THEIR FAST.
WE CAN TALK AT LEISURE ONCE WE HAVE RETURNED TO THE TOWN HOUSE.

WE HAVE FINISHED WITH OUR BUSINESS, SO WE WILL TAKE OUR LEAVE.
Sniff Sniff


AS LONG AS YOU ARE WITH YOUR OWNER, I DON'T GIVE A TOSS WHERE YOU GO.
GOOD-BYE, AND GOOD RIDDANCE.

CIEL!!

NOW I CAN RELAX AND GET DOWN TO MY OWN BUSINESS.

WELCOME BACK!
YOU WENT OFF FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS WITH-OUT A WORD TO ME!!
JUST A LITTLE LONGER, AND I WOULD'VE ASKED THE POLICE TO SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY!!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
KOFF! KOFF!
KOFF!
!!!
KOFF!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU LOOK PALE.
IT'S NOTHING. LEAVE ME ALONE.
IT'S NOT NOTHING! YOU'VE DEFINITELY GOT A COLD!
DON'T YOU HAVE A FEVER—
NO! MY TEMPER-ATURE'S FINE!

SATAN (SLAM)
バーン!!
CIEL!!

YOU'RE LYING!!
NO, I'M NOT.
KOFFI

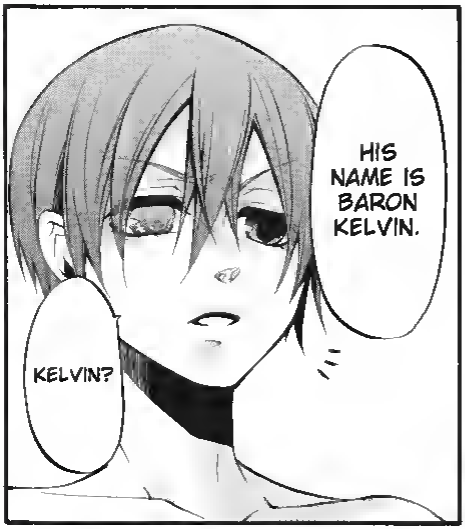
HAAAA (SIIIGHD)
?

YOUNG MASTER DOES LIE QUITE A LOT AND KEEP MANY SECRETS, INDEED.

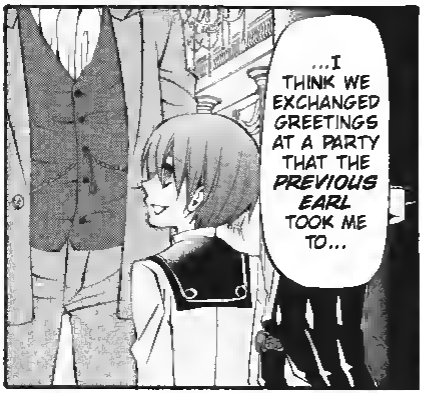
FUKA (SOFT)

YOU NEVER ASKED.
BESIDES, I'M ALREADY OVER IT.
EVEN I WAS NOT AWARE THAT YOUNG MASTER HAS HAD A CHRONIC ILLNESS FROM CHILD-HOOD.
WHY DID YOU NOT TELL ME?
IS THAT SO?
GYU (SQUEEZE)
JAAA (DRIP)
BUT BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.
I SHALL READ SOME MEDICAL TEXTS ON THE SUBJECT OF ASTHMA.
IS THAT PART OF YOUR AESTHETIC AS WELL?
A BUTLER MUST BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH ANY SITUATION THAT MAY ARISE.

HMPH.
ANYWAY, HURRY UP AND TELL ME WHAT YOU FOUND OUT AT THE COLLEGE OF ARMS...

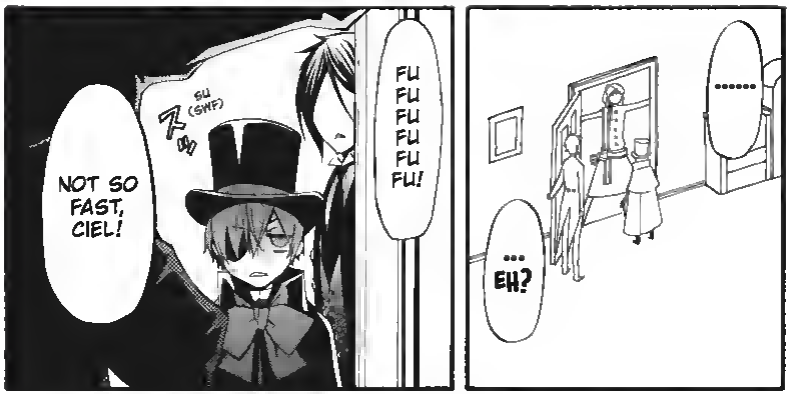

HIS NAME IS BARON KELVIN.
KELVIN?

COLLEGE OF ARMS ...
AH, THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THAT DEVICE BELONGS, YES...?


...I THINK WE EXCHANGED GREETINGS AT A PARTY THAT THE PREVIOUS EARL TOOK ME TO...

DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I DON'T MUCH CARE FOR PHILANTHROPISTS AND SUCH, SO HE IS NOT A PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE, BUT...

BA (FLAP)
SU (SWF)
KYU (TIE)
WE'RE GOING OUT.
WELL, THAT WILL DO. KNOWING HIS NAME IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
YES, MY LORD.
GACHA CHACHAKO


NOT SO FAST, CIEL!
GU (GWF)
FU FU FU FU FU FU!
.....
... EH?

YOU DO HAVE A COLD.
AND AS VICEROY OF THIS TOWN HOUSE AND YOUR BEST FRIEND, I CANNOT OVERLOOK IT!
HA-HA-HA!
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE THIS TOWN HOUSE THAT EASILY WHILE I'M IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING IT!!
NYOKI (POP)
にょき
GO (RUMBLE)
GO
GO
GO
ゴゴゴ
<JO AAGYAA.>
WHO'S MY BEST FRIEND AGAIN? DON'T JOKE WITH ME.
FUU (FWIP)
AH!
AGNI!! DO NOT LET CIEL PASS, NO MATTER WHAT!!
GO
GO
GO
GO
GO
ゴゴゴゴ
SHUSH (UNRAVEL)

PIKI (TWITCH)
NOW SEE HERE, YOU TWO ...!
I HAVE WORK TO DO! I HAVEN'T THE TIME TO TAKE PART IN YOUR SILLY GAMES!
KOFF!
OUT OF MY WAY!
STAYING IN BED AND BEING NURSED BACK TO HEALTH IS THE ONLY WORK A SICK PERSON NEEDS TO SEE TO!!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU! THIS IS NOTH—!
KOFF! GHKK!
LORD CIEL.
LORD CIEL, PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR BED.
THAT WHEEZING SOUND IS CHARAC-TERISTIC OF ASTHMA. YOU ARE NOT WELL AT ALL!

SFX: GIRI (CLENCH)
VERY GOOD, SIR.
AH WAH WAH!
GET THEM AWAY FROM ME!
KOFF! KOFF!
PASHI (SLAP)
SEBASTIAN!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH ME SO CASUALLY!!
KUWA (ROAR)
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF LORD CIEL'S BUTLER!?
AND YOU, MISTER SEBASTIAN!!
—EH?

LET ME SAY THIS AS A FELLOW <KHAN-SAMA>. . NO...
...AS YOUR FRIEND.
YOUR FIRST PRIORITY MUST BE YOUR MASTER'S HEALTH!
IN THIS CASE, SHOULD YOU NOT CONSIDER LORD CIEL'S HEALTH AND STOP HIM FORCIBLY, EVEN IF THAT SHOULD MEAN DISOBEYING HIM?
TO ALWAYS HAVE YOUR MASTER BE CHEERFUL AND HEALTHY.
FOR THAT, YOU MUST WAGER YOUR LIFE.

IS THAT NOT...
...THE VERY ESSENCE OF BEING A BUTLER !?

HMM
...CERTAINLY...
...THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF TRUTH TO WHAT YOU SAY AS WELL.
...I BELIEVE MY DUTY IS TO FULFILL MY MASTER'S WISHES, BUT...
GUI (YANK)
BASED ON THAT, THE PATIENT MUST GO TO BED.
WHY, YOU...! WHY ARE YOU AGREEING WITH HIM!? WHAT ABOUT MY ORDERS!?
AGNI! MAKE SOME RICE PORRIDGE AND HAVE A MEDICINAL BATH READY!
YES, SIR.
CIEL'S <KHANSAMA>, GET HIS NIGHTGOWN OUT! AND AN ICE PILLOW!
YES.
HOW DARE YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE ...!
HEY!!
WHA ...!?
I SHALL SEE TO YOUR CARE PERSONALLY!
THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS NOW!!!

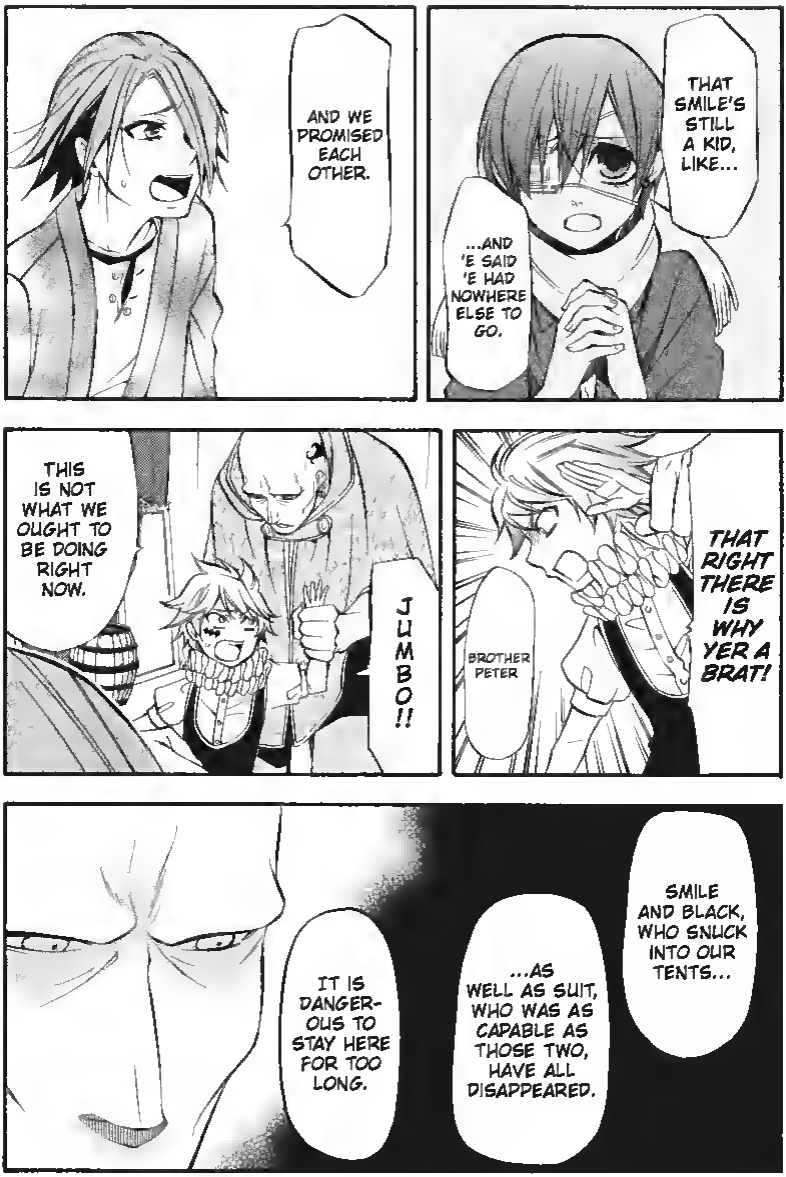
BUESHHHH (POUT)
THERE WE GO! WHAT A RELIEF!
WHEW!!
YES!
I SAID I WAS BUSY...
KOFF!
WE HAVE ALREADY MADE MANY DISCOVERIES IN OUR CASE, SO DOING AS THEY SAY AND TAKING A DAY TO REST SHOULD BE FINE, NO?
HIYA COOOL!
OH DEAR ...
YOUR FEVER HAS GOTTEN TO BE THIS BAD...

WE SHALL SEE TO IT ALL ON THE MORROW.

BASH! (WHAP)

B—
BUT!

I TOLD YE NOT TO TRUST 'EM STRANG-ERS TOO MUCH.


AND WE PROMISED EACH OTHER.
THAT SMILE'S STILL A KID, LIKE...
...AND 'E SAID 'E HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO.
THIS IS NOT WHAT WE OUGHT TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW.
JUMBO!!
BROTHER PETER
THAT RIGHT THERE IS WHY YER A BRAT!
IT IS DANGER-OUS TO STAY HERE FOR TOO LONG.
...AS WELL AS SUIT, WHO WAS AS CAPABLE AS THOSE TWO, HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED.
SMILE AND BLACK, WHO SNUCK INTO OUR TENTS...

THAT'LL BE TOO LATE. WE'D BE BETTER OFF MOVIN' OUT QUICK!
THEN AS SOON AS THE OL' CHAP GETS BACK...
HE SHOULD BE AT FATHER'S PLACE NOW. EVEN IF HE HURRIES, IT WILL TAKE THREE DAYS AT LEAST.
JUMBO'S GOT IT RIGHT. THE KID DON'T LIVE NEARBY IN TOWN, SO WE GOTTA GET TO 'IM WHILE 'E'S IN LONDON.
BUT IF WE LEAVE NOW, IT'LL BE DAWN BY THE TIME WE MAKE IT BACK.
NOTHIN' FOR IT, I GUESS
FATHER SAID THAT THIS TARGET WAS SPECIAL. WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WHILE WE ARE HERE.
ANY FAILURE ON OUR PART WILL INCUR HIS WRATH.

SFX: GIRI (CLUTCH)

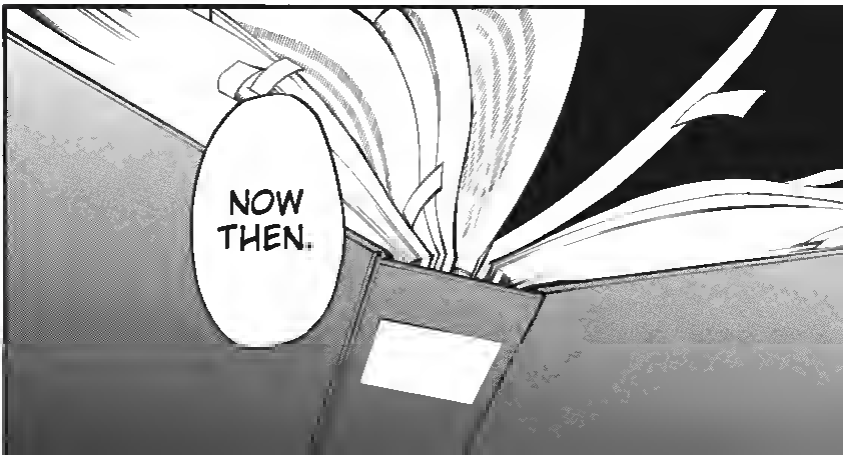
IF YE GO OFF, WE'LL BE SHORT ON MUSCLE IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
.....
ALL RIGHT.
DOLL, YOU GO INSTEAD.
I'LL GET A HORSE SADDLED FOR YOU, SO C'MON.
HUHUUH (NICKER)

NO, YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING WRONG ...

SORRY, SIS.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

NOTH-ING.
GET TO JOKER QUICK.
Y-YEAH.

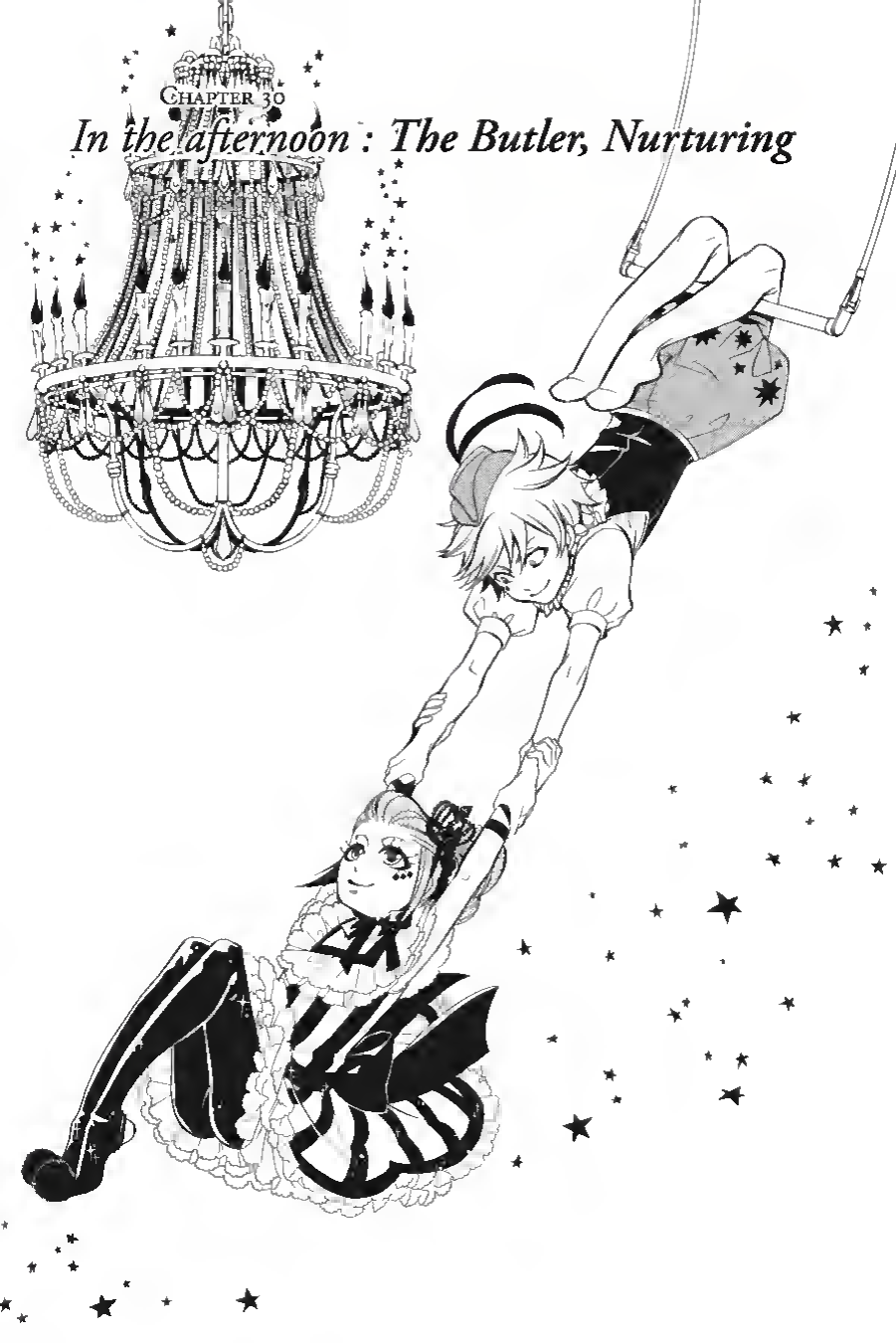
EH?

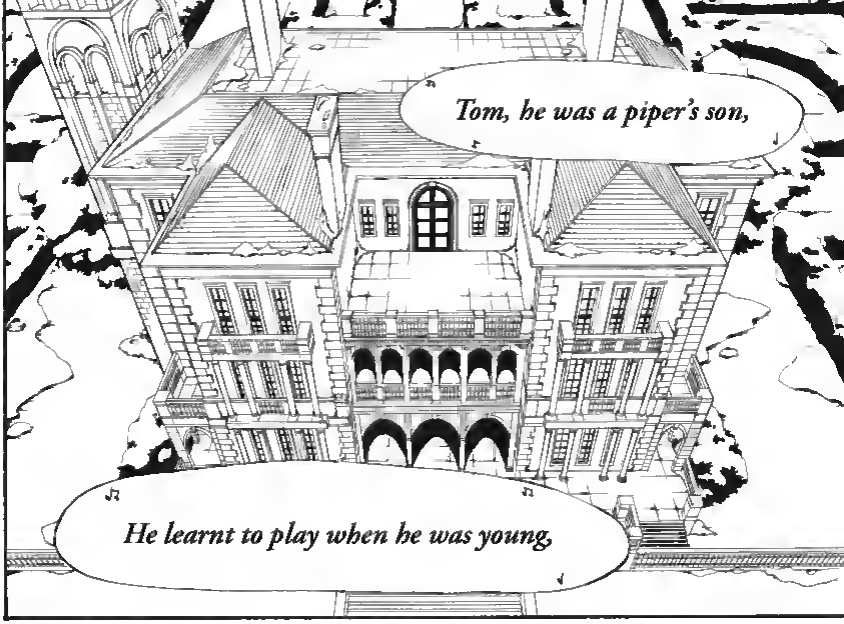

NOW THEN.

FIRST OF ALL, I CAME HERE TO CLEAN UP AFTER MY COWORKER, WHO BOTCHED HIS JOB.
FURTHER-MORE, FOR A MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT LIKE MYSELF, THIS KIND OF WORK FALLS OUTSIDE OF MY PURVIEW.
ON TOP OF THAT, CRUELLY FORCING A PUBLIC SERVANT INTO HARSH NIGHT DUTY FOR MORE THAN A MONTH IS JUST...
UGH, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD.
SIVA

HOW-
EVER...
...IT
ALL COMES
TO AN END
TOMORROW.

# Black Butler


CHAPTER 30
In the afternoon : The Butler, Nurturing


Tom, he was a piper's son,
He learnt to play when he was young,

And all the tune that he could play
Was "Over the hills and far away..."

KYU (TUG)
Over the hills and a great way off,
The wind shall blow my top-knot off.
OVER THE HILLS AND FAR AWAY... EH?

KIN (BANG)
FATHER.
I'VE JUST NOW RETURNED.
KON (KNOCK)
KON
FATHER, MAY I COME IN?

I APOLOGISE FOR MY LATE ARRIVAL.
THE THING IS I'VE HAD WORD THAT...
OOH!
OOH...
WELCOME BACK, JOKER.
WHAT A GOOD LAD YOU ARE, RETURNING SO EARLY.
WELL? WHAT ABOUT *HIM*?
*HE* IS WITH YOU TOO, ISN'T HE?

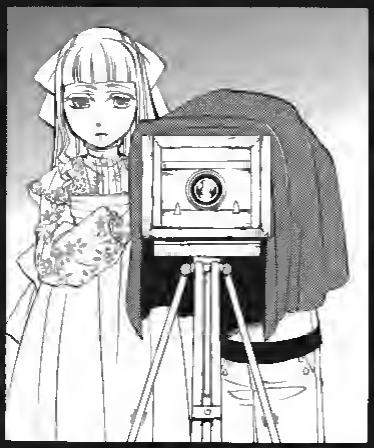
THAT MAKES YOU A BAD BOY.
OH.
NAY, WE'VE YET TO...
LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY.
WE FEAR THE YARD MIGHT HAVE ITS EYE ON US.
FORGIVE ME, BUT ABOUT THAT MATTER ...
IT IS POSSIBLE THEY SAW YOUR LETTER, FATHER.
IT SEEMS THE NEWCOMERS WHO JOINED THE TROUPE A FEW DAYS AGO SNUCK INTO OUR TENTS.

THAT PAIR DID STRIKE ME AS ODD FROM THE START...
...THAT PAGE...
IF THEY ARE WITH THE YARD, WE CANNOT DO AWAY WITH THEM HEEDLESSLY.
DOING SO WOULD AMOUNT TO ADMITTING OUR GUILT OUTRIGHT.
PAPAN (SHATTER)
Y-YES. THE OTHER ONE WAS ALL IN BLACK.
WAS IT A CHILD?
FA-THER?
A PAGE, YOU SAY?
NOW THAT YOU MEN-TION IT... ...THE OTHER ONE WAS A FORMER BUTLER ...
A CHILD AND HIS BUT-LER!!
IT'S THEM!
YES!
I'M SURE OF IT!

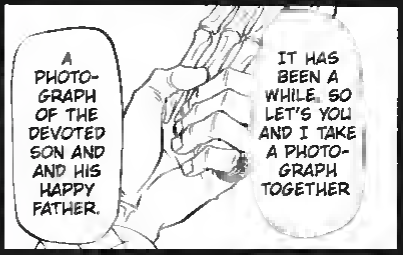
WE'VE DONE IT—!!
IT IS HE!
EARL CIEL PHAN-TOM-HIVE!!

JOKER! HURRY AND PREPARE A MOST SUMPTUOUS FEAST!
PLEASE WAIT!!
WE MUST SHOW HIM THE GREATEST HOSPITALITY!
I HAVE BEEN DREAMING OF HIM EVER SINCE THAT DAY.
SMILE, DID YOU SAY!? HE DID NOT STRIKE ME AS SUCH, BUT...
IF THAT IS TRUE, NOAH'S ARK—THE OTHERS ARE IN DANGER. I MUST SEND WORD RIGHT AWAY...
JOKER.
YOU DARE TO TALK BACK TO ME?

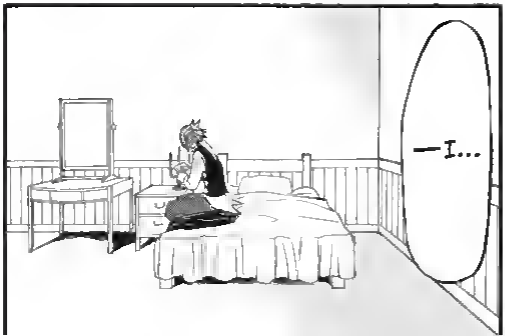
FROM THE MOMENT YOU LOT WERE BORN, YOU WERE FORSAKEN BY EVERYTHING, YET I TOOK YOU IN AND RAISED YOU...
...AND GAVE YOU WORKING ARMS AND LEGS.
DESPITE THAT, YOU STILL DARE TO TALK BACK TO YOUR FATHER?
BIKU
CTWITCH
YOU WANT THE SIBLINGS YOU LEFT BEHIND AT THE WORKHOUSE TO GROW INTO FINE ADULTS AS WELL, DON'T YOU?
THAT WAS NOT—
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
YOU GREW UP TO BE A VERY GOOD LAD.
—YES.
I WILL, FATHER ...
...WILL LISTEN TO HIS FATHER, WON'T HE?
MY GOOD LITTLE JOKER ...



COME HERE.
HAVING SUCH A DEVOTED SON MAKES ME HAPPY INDEED!


A PHOTO-GRAPH OF THE DEVOTED SON AND AND HIS HAPPY FATHER.
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE. SO LET'S YOU AND I TAKE A PHOTO-GRAPH TOGETHER

GIVE US A SMILE NOW!


—I...

.....
SISTER WENDY.
AH... SORRY.
YE STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED PACKIN' UP YET?
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO TELL HIM...
SHOULDN'T WE WAIT FOR JOKER AFTER ALL?

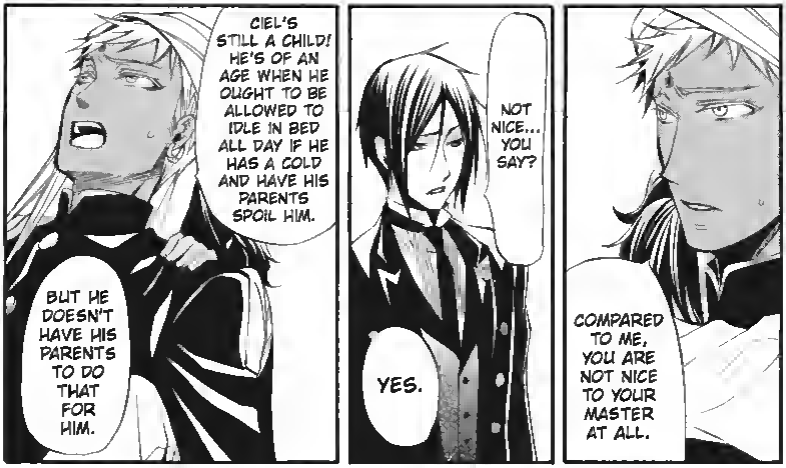
BEEN ACTIN' A TOUCH STRANGE SINCE YESTERDAY, YOU 'AVE. WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU?
YOU CAN PALAVER WIV JOKER ALL YOU WANT AFTER THIS 'ERE JOB'S THROUGH.
ALL'D BE LOST IF WE TARRIED 'ERE ONLY TO BE SNATCHED BY THE COPPERS.
ARE YOU GOING OUT AGAIN?
DON'TCHA FRET. YOU'LL GET TO SEE 'IM TOMORROW.
SIS 'N' I'VE GOT OUR PRIVATE AFFAIRS, LIKE.
—SAYS EMILY.

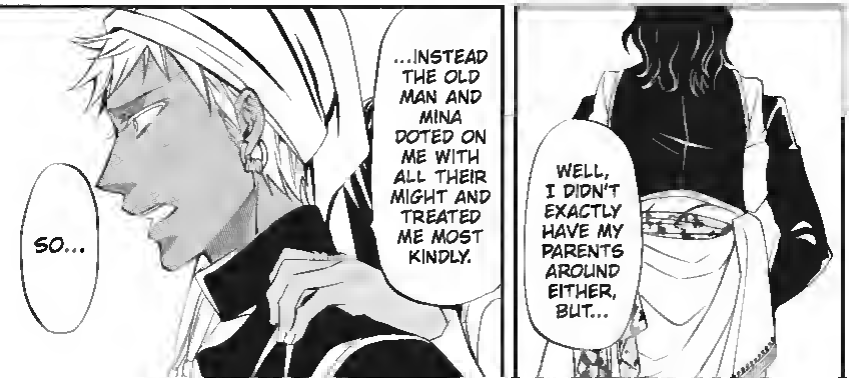
WHICH MEANS WE'RE OUTTA TONIGHT'S SHOW, BUT...
C'MON! A BLOKE CAN DREAM!
...I'LL DO FOR YOU IF'N YOU MAKE A MESS OF THINGS!
Y'KNOW, A DATE WIV SIS 'N'...A DATE WIV SIS 'N'—
WE ARE SIMPLY GOING TO INSPECT THE NEXT TOWN WE WILL BE CALLING AT.
.....
WE'LL...
...WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK 'ERE TOMORROW MORNIN'!
THAT CONCERNS ME, BUT I SHALL DO MY BEST.
—SAYS EMILY.
IT'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT YOU, SO PLEASE COME BACK QUICK, 'KAY? ♡
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU WITH THE BED ALL NICE AND WARM! ♡
—SAYS EMILY.
OH! THERE YOU GO, DAGGER! LOOKS LIKE YER TURN TO BE A HIT WIV THE LASSES IS HERE!
BEIN' A CATCH TO SNAKES DON'T MAKE ME ONE BIT 'APPY!
AND A COLD-BLOODED BEAST CAN'T WARM A BED!!!

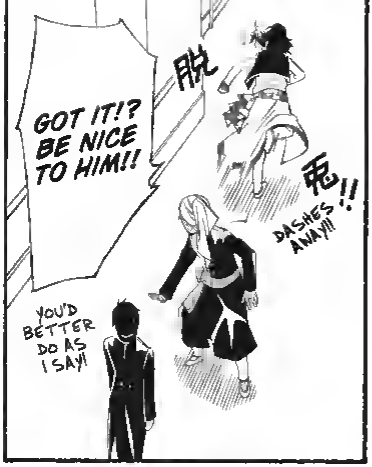
HISO
His breathing has returned to normal, and his colour looks much better than it did yesterday.
HISO (WHISPER)
HIS FEVER SEEMS TO HAVE GONE DOWN.
HISO
SUUU
SUUU (ZZZ)
EXHAUSTED FROM TAKING CARE OF CIEL
We too can now breathe easy
PATAN (SHUT)
SUUU
...SO LET US NOT WAKE THEM.
I HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT THE BEST MEDICINE FOR HUMAN RECOVERY IS SLEEP...
HISO

I APOLOGISE FOR FLYING INTO A RAGE AND RAISING MY VOICE YESTERDAY. I COULD NOT RESTRAIN MYSELF.
MISTER SEBAS-TIAN.
ERM ..
OH NO, I DID NOT SAY ANYTHING SO GREAT AS ALL THAT! MISTER SEBASTIAN IS A FAR MORE PERFECT <KHANSAMA> THAN ONE SUCH AS I!
NO.
BUT YOU'RE NOT NICE ENOUGH.
YOUR WORDS WERE OF GREAT INTEREST TO ME AND PROVIDED ME WITH MUCH FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
EH?

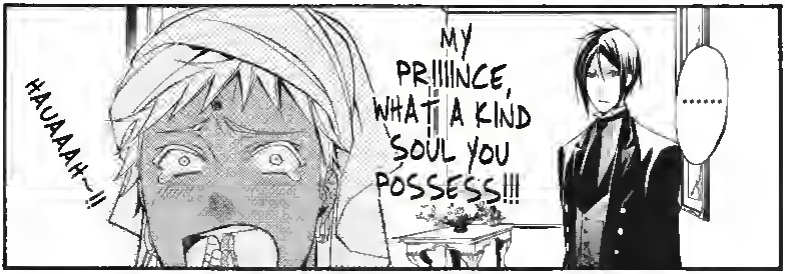
MY PRINCE, WERE YOU AWAK—
I'M ASLEEP !!
THE ONE SPEAKING NOW IS AGNI!!
NOW MOVE YOUR MOUTH!!
EEH!?


COMPARED TO ME, YOU ARE NOT NICE TO YOUR MASTER AT ALL.
NOT NICE... YOU SAY?
YES.
CIEL'S STILL A CHILD! HE'S OF AN AGE WHEN HE OUGHT TO BE ALLOWED TO IDLE IN BED ALL DAY IF HE HAS A COLD AND HAVE HIS PARENTS SPOIL HIM.
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS PARENTS TO DO THAT FOR HIM.


WELL, I DIDN'T EXACTLY HAVE MY PARENTS AROUND EITHER, BUT...
...INSTEAD THE OLD MAN AND MINA DOTED ON ME WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT AND TREATED ME MOST KINDLY.
SO...


GOT IT!? BE NICE TO HIM!!
AHA
DASHES AWAY!!
YOU'D BETTER DO AS I SAY!

...YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR HIM... DOTE ON HIM AND SPOIL HIM SILLY.


HAUAAAH~!!
MY PRIIIINCE, WHAT A KIND SOUL YOU POSSESS!!!
.....

JIRIRIRIRIN (RIIING)

DOTE ON HIM AND SPOIL HIM SILLY, HM...

MISTER TANAKA?

HELLO.

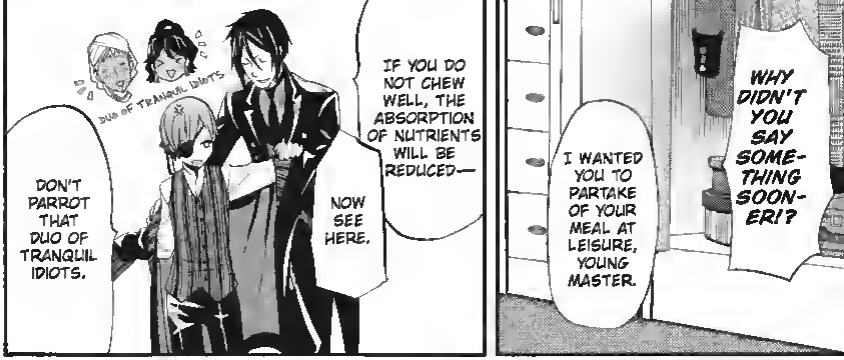
YES.
...YES.
UNDER-STOOD. I SHALL INFORM THE YOUNG MASTER.

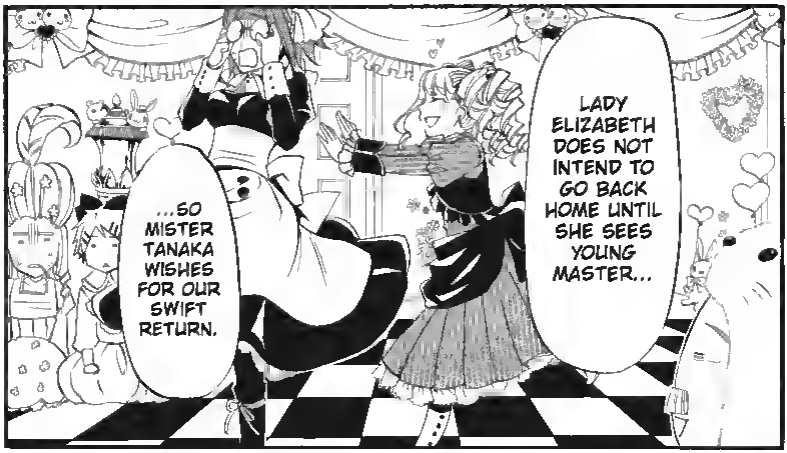
GABA (BOLT)
WHAT TIME IS IT !?
IT IS 7:14 IN THE EVENING.

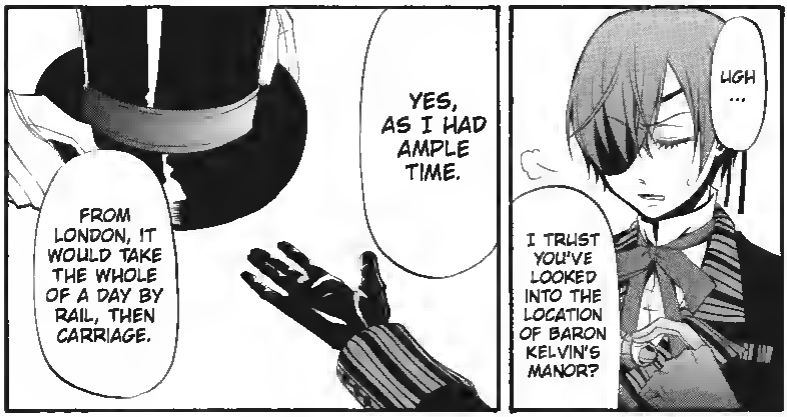
No...
It's dark ...?

I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT A BUTLER SHOULD INDEED THINK FIRST ABOUT HIS MASTER'S HEALTH.
WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME?
YOU ARE UP AT LAST.
NOW THEN, YOUNG MASTER.
FOR DESSERT, WE HAVE A COMPOTE OF WARM APPLES DRIZZLED WITH YOGURT SAUCE.
TONIGHT'S DINNER
Milk risotto with a three-mushroom medley and a pot-au-feu of pork and wine
TODAY'S DINNER IS MILK RISOTTO WITH THREE KINDS OF MUSHROOMS, AND A POT-AU-FEU OF PORK AND WINE.
HUH?
HERE WE ARE.
SAY "AAAAH."
ZOHAAAAA (CHILLS)
ぞわあ
あぁ!!

PRINCE SOMA SAID A SICK PERSON OUGHT TO BE DOTED ON AND SPOILED.
HEH!
WAS IT NOT TO YOUR LIKING?
THERE ARE LIMITS TO HOW PERVERSE ONE CAN BE, YOU KNOW!
STOP THAT THIS INSTANT! I COMMAND YOU!!
AH! IS IT TOO HOT?
HERE, ALLOW ME TO COOL IT FOR YOU.
WHAT THE BLOODY HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE PLAYING AT, MAN!?
MY MY WHAT A SPOILED CHILD WE HAVE HERE. GOOD-NESS
FOOO FOOO
GOOSE BUMPS
I DO BEG YOUR PARDON.
IS THAT RIGHT?
THINGS LIKE THAT MAKE ME SICK.
I HAVE NO NEED OF SPOILING OR ANY SUCH "CHILD'S PLAY"
WHA!?
...WE HAD A CALL FROM MISTER TANAKA AROUND FOUR
IT SEEMS LADY ELIZABETH IS VISITING THE MANOR.
BY THE WAY...


WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING SOONER?
I WANTED YOU TO PARTAKE OF YOUR MEAL AT LEISURE, YOUNG MASTER.
IF YOU DO NOT CHEW WELL, THE ABSORPTION OF NUTRIENTS WILL BE REDUCED—
NOW SEE HERE.
DON'T PARROT THAT DUO OF TRANQUIL IDIOTS.
DUO OF TRANQUIL IDIOTS


LADY ELIZABETH DOES NOT INTEND TO GO BACK HOME UNTIL SHE SEES YOUNG MASTER...
...SO MISTER TANAKA WISHES FOR OUR SWIFT RETURN.


UGH ...
I TRUST YOU'VE LOOKED INTO THE LOCATION OF BARON KELVIN'S MANOR?
YES, AS I HAD AMPLE TIME.
FROM LONDON, IT WOULD TAKE THE WHOLE OF A DAY BY RAIL, THEN CARRIAGE.

YOU CAN GET US THERE IN LESS THAN AN HOUR CAN'T YOU?
IF YOU SO COMMAND.
WE SHALL RESOLVE THIS MATTER WITHOUT DELAY AND RETURN TO THE MANOR.
YES, MY LORD.

NIKO (SMILE)
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE QUITE RECOVERED.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
AND PRINCE ALOIS PAGE MAKES HIS ENTRANCE.
CIEL! YOU'RE TRYING TO GO OUT AGAIN, AREN'T YOU!?
YOU WON'T GET BETTER THAT WAY!
YES-TER-DAY.
I'M TOLD YOU WERE UP ALL NIGHT TAKING CARE OF ME.
YEAH.
EH!?
BATAMU (SLAM)
AH!
I SEE!! IT'S ALL THANKS TO ME!
NAH! HA! HA!
WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE PROPER CARE, YOUR RATE OF RECOVERY IS A WHOLE OTHER STORY!
YES.
AND ON THAT NOTE, THE QUITE HEALTHY ME WILL BE GOING.
SEE YOU LATER.
PRACTICING TO SMILE OCCASIONALLY COMES IN HANDY SIT
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA (STRIDE)
スタスタスタスタスタ

YOU TRICKED MEEEE, CIIIIEL!!
I'LL GET YOU FOR THIS WHEN YOU COME BACK!
I'LL REST A LITTLE ME-SELF.
THERE, THERE
IT'S NOT SO FAR TO GO, SO 'ANG IN THERE!
I STILL ...
...CAN'T BELIEVE SMILE'S WITH THE YARD.
THE CARAMEL...
AH...

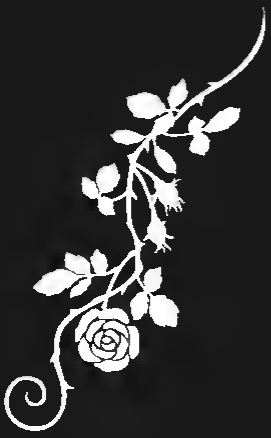
THEN AGAIN, WE AIN'T EXACTLY WHAT WE SAY WE ARE TOO...
HE'S SUCH A WEAK LI'L MITE ...
...AND I DON'T THINK HE'S A LIAR.
ANYWAY, I BEST BE OFF QUICK TO SEE BROTHER JOKER!
YEAH, YER RIGHT!
SURURU (NICKER)
HYAH!

COOOO!
THIS LATE IN THE GAME, AND STILL NO SIGN OF REINFORCE-MENTS.
REALLY NOW!
DELIVER THIS DOCUMENT TO THE PERSONNEL DIVISION.
BASA (FLAP)
POST-HASTE, IF YOU PLEASE.
COOOO!
...TCH.

スッ
SUTO (THUD)
THIS IS HIS MANOR?
YES, SIR.
SAKU (CRUNCH)

I DO INDEED.
WELL? DO YOU SMELL THEM?
I CANNOT TELL WHETHER THEY ARE ALL HERE...
...BUT THOSE PRESENT ARE STILL ALIVE.
!?
WE BID YE WELCOME TO OUR HOME.
CREEEAK

WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
...EARL PHANTOM-HIVE.



# Black Butler

CHAPTER 31
At night : The Butler, A Spectator

WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
...EARL PHANTOM-HIVE.
JOKER ...
BO (FWOOM)
PACHIN (SNAP)
PLEASE COME IN.

!!
THIS IS...!!

THIS WAY.
How should you like to proceed? Would you have me kill him now and extricate the children?
Wait.
PFFT!
HEE HEE..
IF THE CHILDREN ARE STILL ALIVE, WE SHOULD APPREHEND KELVIN FIRST.
I CANNOT REPORT TO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN, IF I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HIS OBJECTIVES AND THE ACTUAL FACTS OF THE CASE.
VERY WELL, SIR.
KUH KUH
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S A TOUCH O' TRUTH TO THE SAYING THAT FOLKS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM.

YE'VE GOT SUCH A LITTLE BODY...
...YET YOUR STAGE NAMES ARE "THE QUEEN'S WATCHDOG" AND "THE ARISTOCRAT OF EVIL."
MUST'VE 'AD A ROUGH GO OF IT, EH, SMILE?
THAT'S *EARL* CIEL PHANTOMHIVE TO YOU.
A MERE SERVANT IS IN NO POSITION TO SPEAK TO ME IN SUCH A FAMILIAR MANNER.
スッ SU (SNIF)
HEH!
YE ARE INDEED
...A NOBLE ARISTOCRAT.

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

DINNER IS SERVED.
GI (CREAK)

I BELIEVE HE HAS ARRIVED.

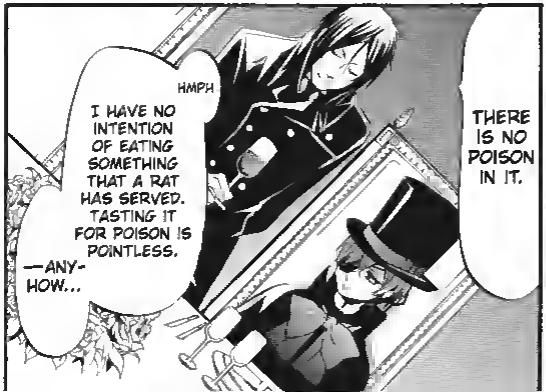
KII (CREAK)
KII
KII

...EARL PHANTOMHIVE!
YOU'VE COME AT LAST...
GH!
AAH... IT IS LIKE A DREAM!
TO HAVE YOU SO CLOSE TO ME!
...ARE YOU BARON KELVIN, SIR?
I AM. I MUST SAY YOUR FORMALITY IS MAKING ME FEEL MOST SELF-CONSCIOUS!
MOJI
MOJI (FIDGET)
THOUGH I AM MOST ASHAMED TO SEE YOU AS I AM...

I HAVE PREPARED A FEAST FOR YOU.
THE WINE IS AN 1875 VINTAGE, FROM THE YEAR OF YOUR BIRTH.
I WON-DER... AM I BEING TOO PRETEN-TIOUS?

SU (SWF)

.....
KSHO (SHOCK)

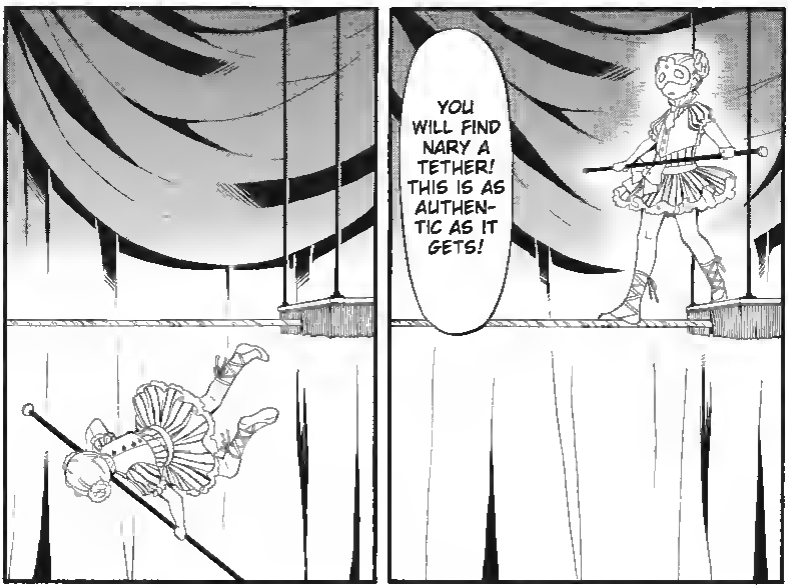

THERE IS NO POISON IN IT.
HMPH
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF EATING SOMETHING THAT A RAT HAS SERVED. TASTING IT FOR POISON IS POINTLESS.
—ANY-HOW...

IT WOULD SEEM THERE ARE MORE VICTIMS BEYOND THOSE INDICATED BY POLICE RECORDS.
THOSE CHIL- DREN...
JOKER!
THE EARL MUST ALSO FIND A LONE MEAL BORING.
AH, YES.
BUT THE AY HEY OOK ...
JUST DO IT!
BRING THAT OUT FOR HIM.
EH!
B- BUT ...

NIYA
GRIND
?
.....
YES,
SIR
...

TON
TON (TAP)
SHURU (TWIRL)
RU
RU
ZUBA (SWOOSH)
WELCOME, EARL PHANTOMHIVE.
THIS EVENING WE SHALL 'SPECIALLY CONVEY YE TO A WORLD OF DAZZLING DELIGHTS.
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI

FIRST, WE GO TO THE TIGHTROPE!


YOU WILL FIND NARY A TETHER! THIS IS AS AUTHEN-TIC AS IT GETS!

DOSHA (SPLAT)
PUGYAH!
WHA...
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
!?

GARA (ROLL)
GARA
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU
NEXT, OUR BEAST TAMER!
GABU (CHOMP)
AKHAH!
WATCH WITH BATED BREATH AS THE FEROCIOUS LION IS EXPERTLY—
GURURURU (GROWL)
NOW!
PAN (CLAP)
PAN
PAN
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

NEXT WE HAVE KNIFE-THROW-ING!
はッ
HA (GASP)
WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF THE CRUCIFIED LASS!?
PUT AN END TO IT, SEBAS-TIAN!!

ピ
BISHI
(STOP)
SU
(SWF)
スッ…

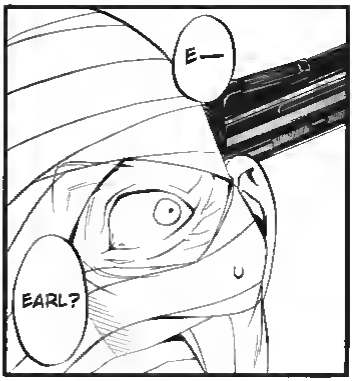
THERE IS NO MISTAKE. IT IS SHE.
JUST AS EXPECTED OF YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
ELLERY NIXON, WHO HAD GONE MISSING IN THE CORNWALL AREA...
BASA (FLAP)
I SEE. THIS IS ANOTHER WAY OF ENJOYING THE CIRCUS.
BOOO (CATED)
ボ"ー…
THROWING ABDUCTED CHILDREN INTO THE RING AS THEY ARE.
PHEW...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
JOKER! CLEAN THIS UP AT ONCE!
I'M SORRY. DID THIS NOT PLEASE YOU EITHER !?

I NEED ONLY REPORT THIS MUCH TO HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
KATAN (CLINK)
I DO NOT WISH TO SHARE A TABLE WITH RUBBISH THAT IS INFERIOR EVEN TO DOMESTIC BEASTS.
EH!? EH!? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
KA (CLICK)
THAT THIS VULGAR ...
KO (CLACK)
... ODIOUS ...
KO
...PER- VERTED...

...AND VILEST OF ALL BOORS...
...WAS DISPOSED OF BY ME, THE WATCH-DOG!

ZA
(SWSH)

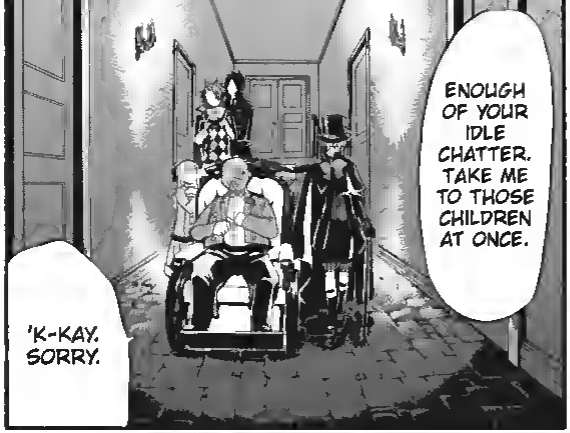
!!

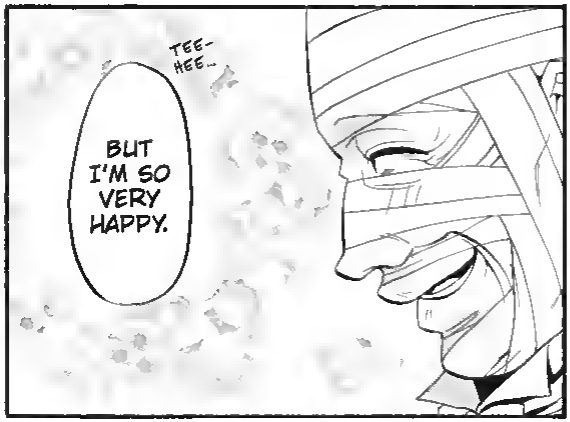

E—
EARL?

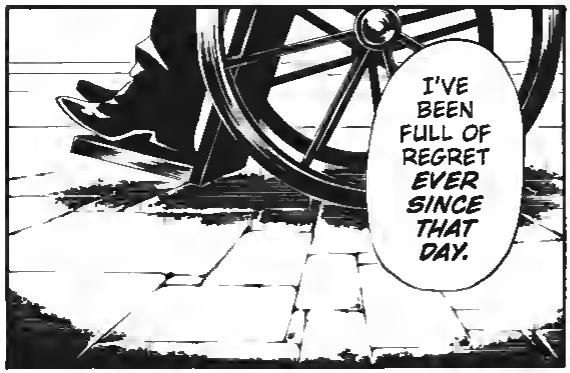
JOKER!!
STOP POINTING SUCH A DANGEROUS THING AT THE EARL!!

CAN'T YOU JUST LISTEN TO ME!?
UT—
GU (PRESS)

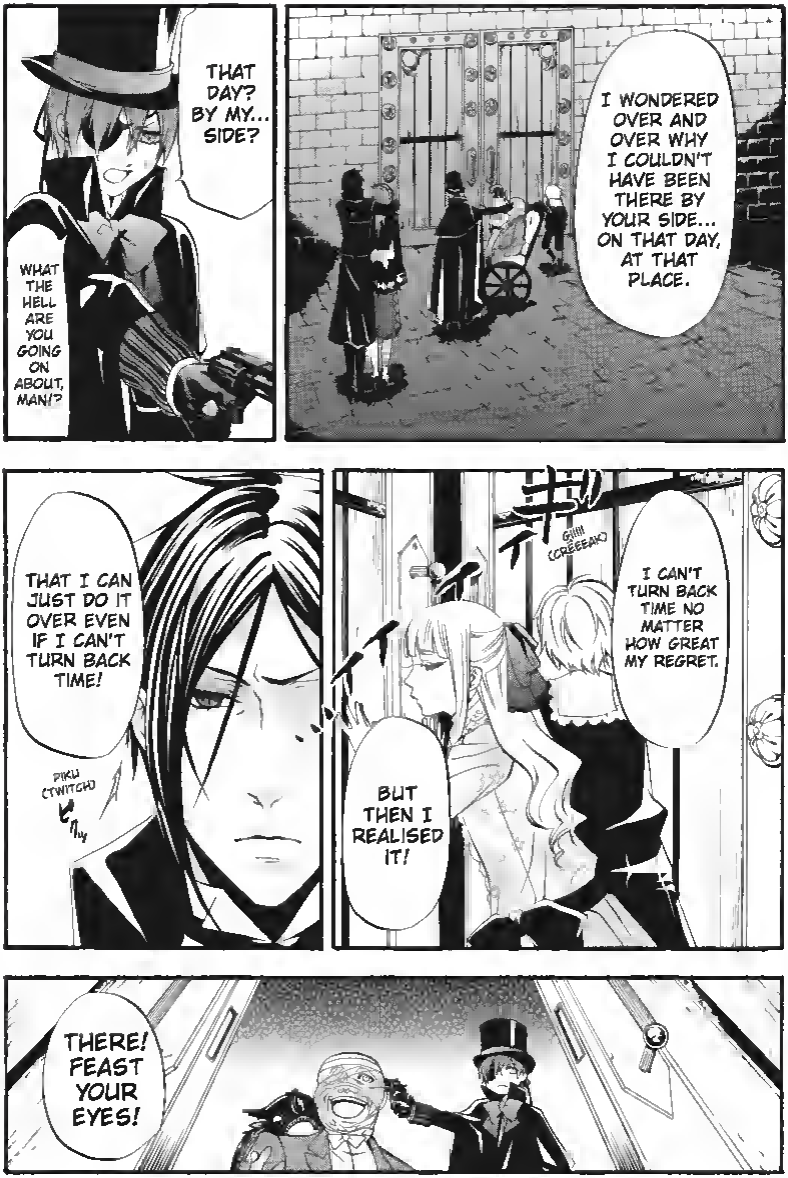
WHERE ARE THE KIDNAPPED CHILDREN?
BARON KELVIN.
KUH...
SU (SWF)
THEY'RE IN THE BASE-MENT, SO I'LL SHOW YOU THE WAY JUST NOW!
YOU WANTED TO SEE THEM, DID YOU?
GURIN (FWIP)
WHAT'S THIS!?
!?
AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE DOWN-STAIRS THAT I WANT TO SHOW YOU BESIDES!
?


ENOUGH OF YOUR IDLE CHATTER. TAKE ME TO THOSE CHILDREN AT ONCE.
'K-KAY. SORRY.


TEE-HEE~
BUT I'M SO VERY HAPPY.


I'VE BEEN FULL OF REGRET *EVER SINCE THAT DAY.*

TO BE STROLLING BESIDE YOU THIS WAY IS REALLY LIKE A DREAM!


THAT DAY? BY MY... SIDE?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, MAN!?
I WONDERED OVER AND OVER WHY I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE BY YOUR SIDE... ON THAT DAY, AT THAT PLACE.
THAT I CAN JUST DO IT OVER EVEN IF I CAN'T TURN BACK TIME!
PIKU (TWITCH)
GUH! (CREEAK)
I CAN'T TURN BACK TIME NO MATTER HOW GREAT MY REGRET.
BUT THEN I REALISED IT!
THERE! FEAST YOUR EYES!

IT TOOK ME THREE WHOLE YEARS TO PREPARE THIS.
THAT FATEFUL DAY, WHICH CAME TO PASS THREE YEARS AGO!!
NOW LET US RECREATE IT ANEW, EARL PHANTOM-HIVE!

*IT ALL BEGAN ON THAT DAY FIVE YEARS AGO.*

AHH, YES. THERE IS SOMEONE TO WHOM I SHOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU.
NOW WHERE DID HE GO?
WHAT A GRAND AND SPLENDID BALL THIS IS!
I LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSING PHILAN-THROPY WITH YOU LATER THIS EVENING!
AS DO I! HA HA HA!
HELLO THERE! YOU ARE MOST WELCOME, BARON AND BARONESS KELVIN!
EARL BURTON!
THERE HE IS!
AH.
HOW CURIOUS. HE WAS HERE UNTIL JUST A MOMENT AGO...

EARL PHANTOM-HIVE!

COME, YOU GREET HIM FIRST.
OKAY.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE YOU. THIS IS BARON KELVIN.
HOW DO YOU DO?
HOW DO YOU DO, BARON KELVIN?
I'M CIEL.

# Black Butler

Chapter 32

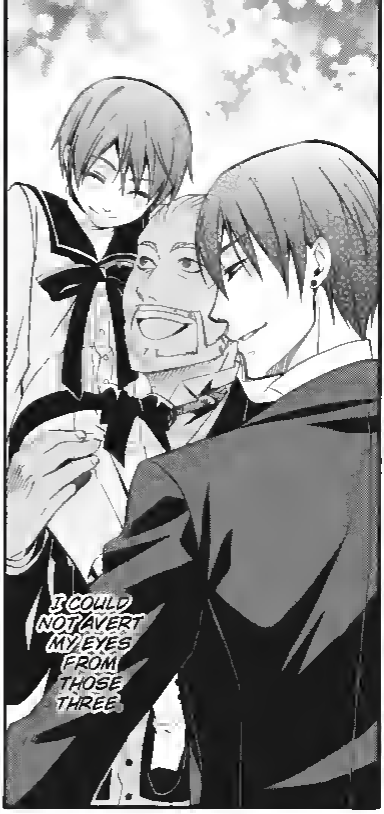
# *At midnight : The Butler, Mocking*

HOW DO YOU DO, BARON KELVIN?
I'M CIEL.
I DO BEG YOUR PARDON. THE CHILD IS QUITE SHY.
HIS HEALTH IS A BIT FRAIL, SO HE DOES NOT GO OUTSIDE VERY OFTEN.
PA CHIDE)

IT'S UNCLE CHLAUS !!
TA (CRASH)
AH!
<GUTEN TAG!!>
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE. YOU'VE GROWN UP!
OHH!! IS THAT CIEL I SEE!?
CHLAUS! RETURNED, HAVE YOU?
FU (SNIF)
AH...

—WELL?
YOU WERE AWAY FOR QUITE A WHILE THIS TIME AROUND.
HE INSISTED ON COMING WITH ME...
...THOUGH HE HAS ONLY JUST GOTTEN OVER HIS ILLNESS...
VINCENT.
WE'RE ALL TOGETHER TODAY. WHAT A RARE TREAT!
HMM? THEN PERHAPS I OUGHT TO TRY MY HAND AT PECKING AT THEIR HARD SHELLS TOO?
GERMAN BEAUTIES ARE MADE OF TOUGH, VIRTUOUS STUFF.
DOES IT COME FROM THEIR NATIONAL CHARACTER, I WONDER?
BARON KELVIN?
HIS YEARS MAY STILL BE FEW, BUT THIS YOUNG MAN APPRECIATES PHILANTHROPY.
HE HAS INVITED THE CHILDREN FROM MY ORPHANAGE TO HIS MANOR FOR GUY FAWKES' DAY AND AT CHRISTMASTIME, AND. .

THEY WERE SERENE AND BEAUTIFUL LIKE THE MOON RISING SILENTLY IN THE BLACKEST NIGHT SKY—
IN AN INSTANT, I REALISED...


I COULD NOT AVERT MY EYES FROM THOSE THREE.

...THAT THEY WERE "SPECIAL."

AND THEN I CAME TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT THEM.

I TRIED FRANTICALLY TO GLEAN ALL I COULD ABOUT THE PHANTOM-HIVES.
I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT MADE THEM SO SPECIAL..

AND THEIR TRUE IDENTITY AS THE "ARISTO-CRATS OF EVIL"—

...AND I COULD NOT HELP BUT YEARN FOR THAT DARKNESS BEHIND THE ROSE.
EVEN THE LOVELIEST FLOWERS HAVE THEIR THORNS...

I MUST SAY YOU DO EAT A LOT
TCH!
FINE, I SUPPOSE I CAN DO THAT MUCH.
YOU OWE ME FOR THE WINDSOR INCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO...SO I'LL HAVE YOU HEAR ME OUT AT THE VERY LEAST.

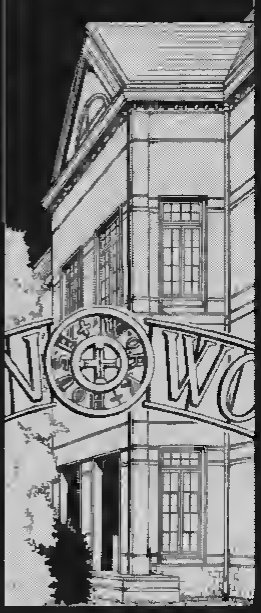
I HAVE A JOB THAT REQUIRES YOUR ASSIS-TANCE.
WHY DID YOU GO TO THE TROUBLE OF CALLING ME BACK FROM GERMANY?

E—!
EARL PHANTOM-HIVE!!
I-IT HAS BEEN A WHILE!!

HEY.

NIKO (SMILE)
ﾆｺ.
GOOD EVENING.

DO PLEASE EXCUSE US
AH—!
DIEDRICH, YOU'RE MUCH TOO IMPATIENT.
U-UM...
I THINK WE MIGHT BE OVER-HEARD HERE, SO WHY DON'T WE GO TALK SOME-WHERE ELSE?
YES, THAT'S PROBABLY IT.
HE DID SPEAK TO ME, AFTER ALL, SO PERHAPS THAT IS THE CASE?
WHO EXACTLY WAS THAT OLD MAN ANYWAY? FRIEND OF YOURS?
NN?
I DARE-SAY WE WOULD QUALIFY AS OLD MEN OUR-SELVES.
ONLY THE EQUALLY "SPECIAL" CAN HAVE CONTACT WITH THOSE WHO ARE "SPECIAL."
OHH.
NOW I SEE.



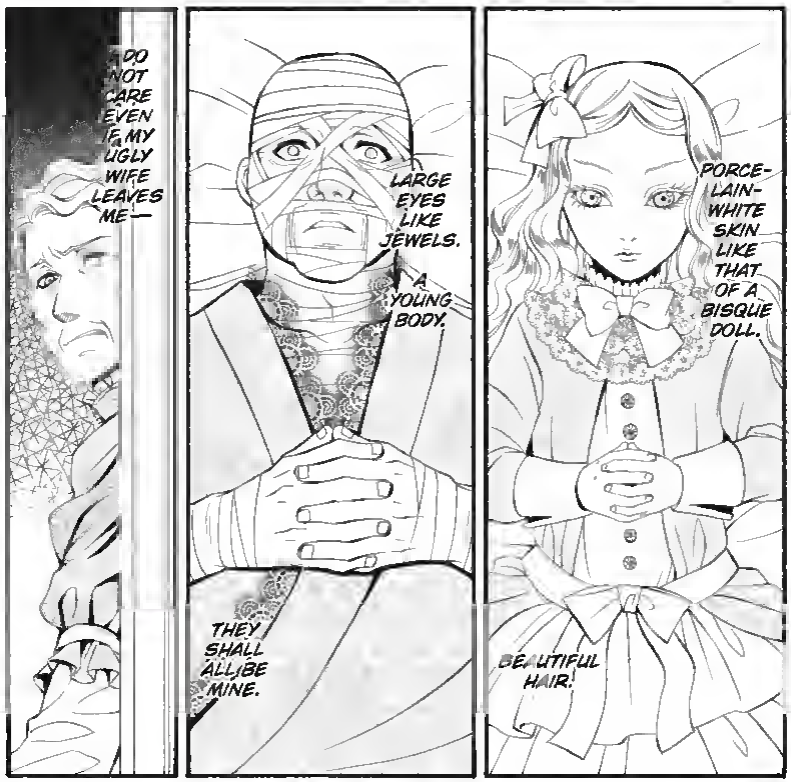
MY DESIRE TO BE ENVELOPED, IN THEIR WORLD OF NIGHT, BEAUTIFUL AS VELVET, SHALL NEVER BE GRANTED.

FOR ONE AS HIDEOUS AS I, EVEN TOUCHING THEM IS UNFORGIVABLE.

CHIKU (CHECK)
チク
WILL HE TOO SOMEDAY BECOME A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER OF DARKNESS, WRAPPED IN THORNS?

WILL HE BECOME THE LONE, COLD MOON THAT SHINES IN THAT WORLD OF NIGHT?
SOME-ONE I CAN NEVER REACH...
NOOOO —— !!!
I WANT...
I CAN'T DO EVERYTHING STRAIGHT-AWAY...
...BUT PLEASE LEAVE IT TO ME.
I WANT...
...TO TOUCH HIM...

YOU CAN BECOME YOUR IDEAL SELF.
...TO BECOME SOMEONE SPECIAL—


I DO NOT CARE EVEN IF MY UGLY WIFE LEAVES ME—
LARGE EYES LIKE JEWELS.
A YOUNG BODY.
THEY SHALL ALL BE MINE.
PORCE-LAIN-WHITE SKIN LIKE THAT OF A BISQUE DOLL.
BEAUTIFUL HAIR.

I WILL BECOME SOMEONE WORTHY OF HIM.
I WILL BECOME STILL MORE BEAUTIFUL BY LIVING A BEAUTIFUL LIFE.
I BRING YOU A REPORT.
HOWEVER...
IT APPEARS THAT SOMEONE ATTACKED THE PHANTOMHIVE MANOR LAST NIGHT.
BOTH THE EARL AND HIS FAMILY WERE KILLED—

I LOST MY REASON TO LIVE AND WAS MERELY PASSING THE DAYS AS THOUGH I HAD ALREADY BITTEN THE DUST.
—WHY IN THE WORLD HAD I DONE ALL THIS...?

THE MOON VANISHED FAR TOO ABRUPTLY FROM MY NIGHT.

IS THAT REALLY TRUE!?
Shh!
You're too loud, Baron!!

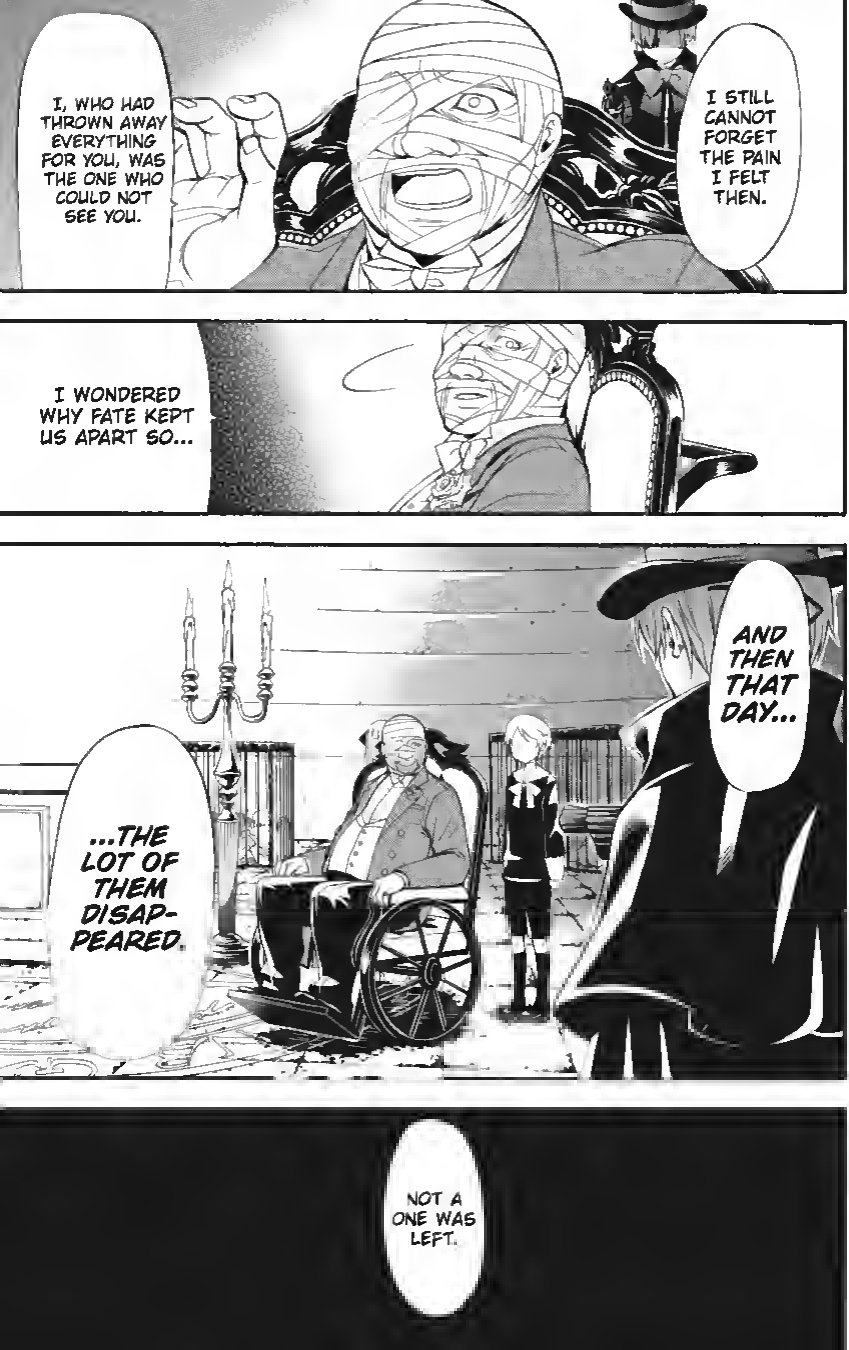
AND THEN ONE DAY—
WHAT!?

BARON?
IT'S MAKING EVERYONE TERRIBLY RESTLESS!
FU FU FU
WHO WOULD EVER HAVE GUESSED THAT WE WOULD HAVE A SON OF THAT PHANTOM-HIVE FAMILY AS OUR "LAMB"...?
BURU (SHAKE)
BURU

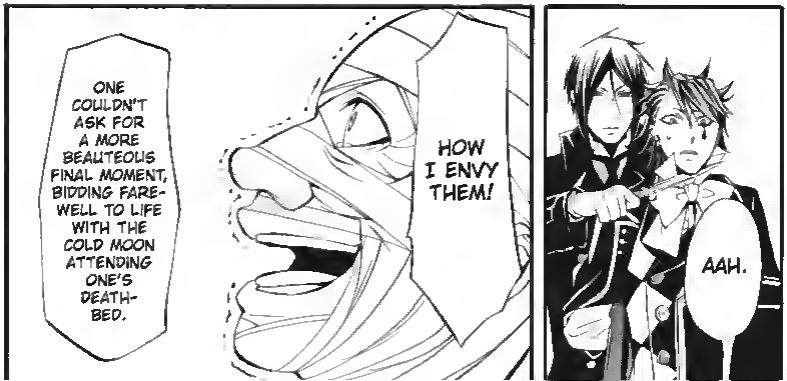
IT SEEMS THE FELLOW WHO WENT "TO MARKET" JUST THE OTHER DAY CAME ACROSS HIM...
HE IS PHANTOM-HIVE'S CHILD IN THE FLESH!

MOREOVER, IT WAS NOW WITHIN MY REACH.
THE MOON THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM ME CAME BACK TO MY NIGHT.
I TOO WILL GO !!!
GA (GRAB)
COME, COME. NO NEED TO GET SO EXCITED.
PLEASE, I BEG YOU!
PLEASE! TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
YOU MUST NOT! YOU'VE JUST GONE UNDER THE KNIFE. YOU'RE TO STAY IN BED FOR A WHOLE MONTH...
BUT...
WELL, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
WAIT!!
WAIT!
MY COMRADES AND I, AS YOUR KINDRED SOULS, WILL LOVE HIM PLENTY IN YOUR STEAD.
JUST THINK OF IT AS A SPOT OF BAD LUCK THIS TIME.

FATHER, YOU ARE IN NO SHAPE TO GO!
FATHER!
I WILL GO!!
LET ME...
DOSA (THUD)
AH!
PLEASE! TAKE ME TOO—!
ZU (SLIP)
...GO WITH YOOOU!


I, WHO HAD THROWN AWAY EVERYTHING FOR YOU, WAS THE ONE WHO COULD NOT SEE YOU.
I STILL CANNOT FORGET THE PAIN I FELT THEN.
I WONDERED WHY FATE KEPT US APART SO...
AND THEN THAT DAY...
...THE LOT OF THEM DISAP-PEARED.
NOT A ONE WAS LEFT.

IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT? HM, EARL?
YOU DID THEM A FAVOUR AND KILLED THEM ALL.


ONE COULDN'T ASK FOR A MORE BEAUTEOUS FINAL MOMENT, BIDDING FAREWELL TO LIFE WITH THE COLD MOON ATTENDING ONE'S DEATHBED.
HOW I ENVY THEM!
AAH.

LOOK! I'VE GOT EVERY-THING READY—
THIS IS ALL AS IT WAS THAT DAY!
LET ME JOIN THEIR RANKS!
PLEASE!
...YOU, MY DEAR EARL!
AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST...
THE LAMBS.
THE VENUE FOR THE RITUAL.

TO BE HONEST, I WANTED TO COME AND GET YOU MY-SELF—
PAN (BLAM)
HFF...!
HFFFFF...
HFFFFF...

FATHERR!
BUTSU (POP)
KIIN (SHWING)
UWOO-OOOO-HHH!!

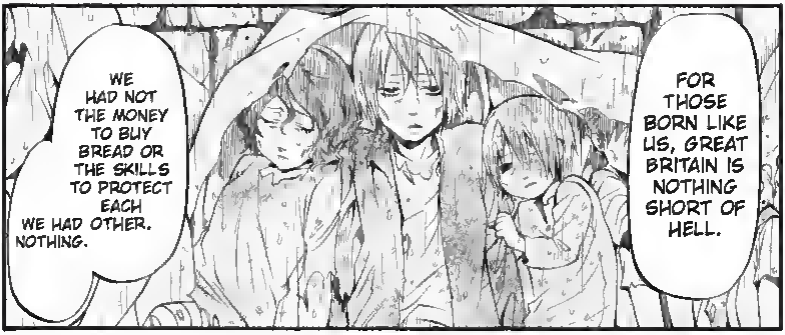
EH?
TON (SHINK)

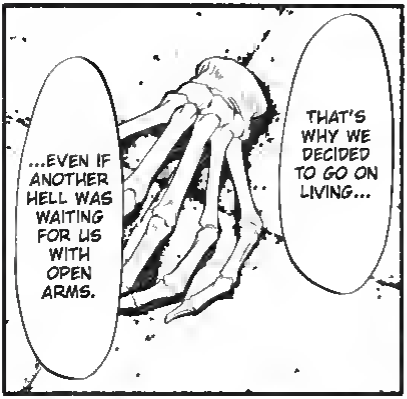
MIGHT YOU BE SO KIND AS TO NOT INTERFERE WITH MY MASTER?
DOSA (THUD)

GWAAAH!
AAAH!
I-IT HURTS, EARRRL.
I'M IN AGONY-YYYY!
(A-HEH)
HAAH!
I-IF YOU'RE GOING TO KILL ME, KILL ME JUST LIKE YOU DID THEM —!
HAH!
(A-HEH)
I B... I BEG YOU.
(HAAH)
GUAH!
GA (WHACK)
LIKE I DID THEM?

...AND PLEAD WITH THE DEVIL.
THEN GET ON YOUR KNEES LIKE A WORM...
WE, WHO WERE ABANDONED BY OUR PARENTS, BY THIS NATION—
HE SAVED US FROM THE TERROR OF STARVING TO DEATH, WHICH PLAGUED US DAY IN AND DAY OUT.
BE HE AS HE MAY, WE STILL OWE HIM OUR LIVES.
PLEASE DON'T KILL 'IM!

WE'VE MANY LITTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS STILL IN THE WORK-HOUSE.
...THAT'S WHY YOU KIDNAPPED ALL THE CHILDREN?
THEY CAN'T MAKE IT IF HE'S NOT 'ROUND.
SO...
YOU OBEYED THIS MAN'S ORDERS...
...AND MADE SACRIFICES OF OTHERS IN ORDER TO SAVE YOUR-SELVES?
YES.
YOU'VE GOT IT RIGHT.


WE HAD NOT THE MONEY TO BUY BREAD OR THE SKILLS TO PROTECT EACH WE HAD OTHER. NOTHING.
FOR THOSE BORN LIKE US, GREAT BRITAIN IS NOTHING SHORT OF HELL.


...EVEN IF ANOTHER HELL WAS WAITING FOR US WITH OPEN ARMS.
THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO GO ON LIVING...

BUT FATHER RESCUED US UP FROM THE RUBBISH HEAP...
...AND GAVE US LIMBS THAT COULD PROTECT THE ONES DEAR TO US.

EH?
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.
I KNEW WE WERE IN THE WRONG FROM HE VERY GINNING. UT I—

YOU FOUGHT TO PROTECT YOUR OWN WORLD. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.
NO ONE GIVES A DAMN ABOUT ANYONE ELSE. IF YOU'RE CARELESS, YOU'RE SURE TO LOSE.
AFTER ALL, THE JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD IS A SHAM CREATED BY THOSE IN POWER FOR THEMSELVES.
TO BEGIN WITH, ONLY TWO KINDS OF HUMANS HAVE EVER EXISTED IN THIS WORLD.
AND TODAY...
THOSE WHO ROB, AND THOSE WHO ARE ROBBED.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.
...I SHALL ROB YOU AND YOUR ALLIES OF YOUR FUTURES.

HA...
HA HA!
AH HA HA HA!
DOSA (THUD)
YE SAID IT!
BUT, SEE...
...YE'LL ALSO LOSE SOMETHING PRECIOUS THIS NIGHT.
?
HA (GASP)
ELIZA-BETH.
THE CIRCUS TROUPE'S HEADING TO YOUR MANOR.

IT'S 'COS ALL THE WITNESSES CEASE TO EXIST.
WHY D'YE THINK WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO KIDNAP CHILDREN WITHOUT ANYONE CATCHING ON TO US?
HAH
HAH
ZA (RUSTLE)

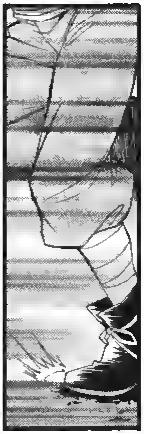
RIGHTY, WE'LL GIVE IT A GO FROM THE TOP.
'KAY, SIS AND ME'LL START OVER THERE...
LET US SPLIT UP.

SO THIS'S THE PLACE... IT'S HUGE
I GET THE FEELIN' IT'D BE A RIGHT MESS JUST FINDIN' THE ROOM THE TARGET'S IN.

...

SIS?
OH... COMING.

WE MUST DEPART BEFORE THE SUN RISES.
THIS TRULY IS A MASSIVE MANOR HOUSE.



OHH?
WE HAVE A GUEST AT THIIIS HOUR?
EXCUSE MEEE!
I'VE BEEN TOLD NOT TO LET STRANGERS IN WHILE YOUNG MASTER IS AWAY.
MUNYU
MUNYU (SLEEPY)
WON'T YOU CALL AGAIN AT ANOTHER TIME—

I WONDER HOW MANY PEOPLE'LL GET KILLED OFF AS THEY GO SNIFFING 'ROUND FOR A TARGET THAT'S NOT THERE IN THAT GREAT BIG HOUSE?
THOSE OF US IN THE TROUPE. WE'RE PROFESSIONALS. WE DISPOSE OF EVERYONE WE COME INTO CONTACT WITH DURING OUR MISSIONS NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON.
DOKA CHIHAND
THE SERVANTS, YOU SAY?
GET KILLED OFF?
INDEED. RIGHT DOWN TO THE LAST OF THE SERVANTS.
HEH.
HEH.

WHAT IS SO FUNNY .....!?
HEH
HEH HEH
WHAT DO YOU TAKE THEM FOR?
THEY ARE SERVANTS OF THE PHANTOM-HIVE FAMILY.

I HAD NO CHOICE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
(STEP)
.....
!?
BIN
PLEEEASE!

I'LL GET A RIGHT SCOLDING 'COS OF YOOOU!
YOUNG MASTER TOLD ME TO DO THIS...
...AND MISTER SEBASTIAN PUT ME UNDER STRICT ORDERS...

...NEVER TO LET ANYBODY IN HERE.

*To be continued in* Black Butler 8

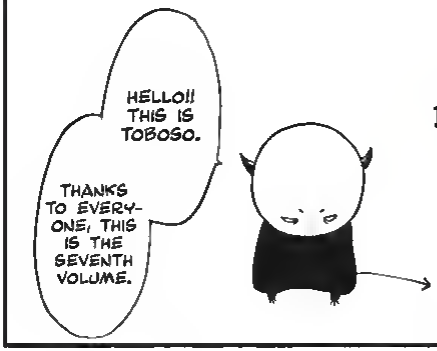
# Black Butler
黒執事

## Downstairs

Wakana Haduki
Akiyo Satorigi
SuKe
Kiyo
7
*
Takeshi Kuma
*
Yana Toboso

## SpecialThanks

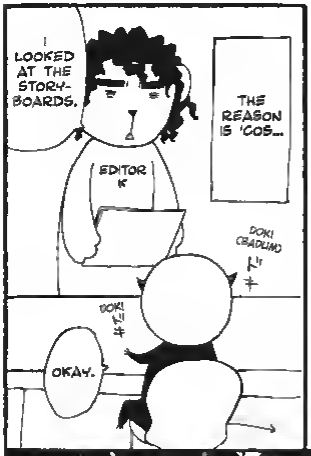
Yana's Mother
for You!

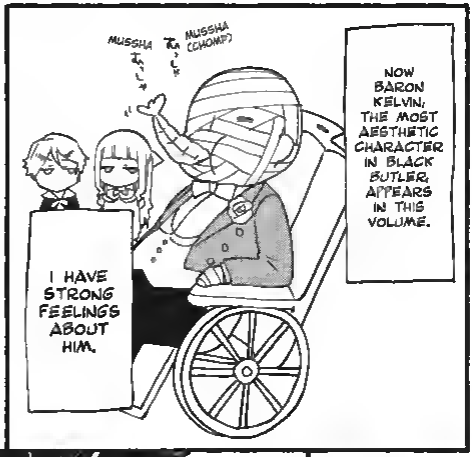



# DOWNSTAIRS WITH BLACK BUTLER V

WARNING: WATCH OUT FOR SPOILERS!

YANA TOBOSO





MUSSHA
MUSSHA (CHOMP)
NOW BARON KELVIN, THE MOST AESTHETIC CHARACTER IN BLACK BUTLER, APPEARS IN THIS VOLUME.
I HAVE STRONG FEELINGS ABOUT HIM.

DO YOU EVEN FULLY UNDER-STAND KELVIN'S SPIRIT YET!?
DOGOON (BOOOM)
THIS DOES NOT CONVEY THE DARKNESS OF HIS HEART OR HIS SENSE OF BEAUTY!!

IN "DEATH IN VENICE," THE BELLETRISTIC MOVIE...
AND WE HAD PROFOUND DEBATES ABOUT THE CHARACTER'S PSYCHOLOGY LIKE WE'D NEVER DONE BEFORE.
I TALKED ABOUT KELVIN WITH MY FRIENDS AND ASSISTANTS AFTERWARD, BUT...
...INNOCENCE IS MORE...
THE BEAUTY OF DECADENCE AND THE SENSE OF LOSS...
THAT IS WHY IT IS PRECIOUS...
THERE WERE OTHER, DEEPER EMOTIONS IN KELVIN'S HEART THEN, BUT...
THE YEARNING FOR AND ENVY OF SOMETHING BEYOND HIS REACH...
THE DARKNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART, AS IN...
I'M SORRY! I NEED MORE TRAINING!! I'LL CONTEMPLATE KELVIN MORE!!
GOOD!!!
GOOD JOB!!
WELL, BUT THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!
YEP!
MANUSCRIPT
ALL STARRING KELVIN!!
I'M DONE, K-SAN!
I USED UP FIFTEEN WHOLE PAGES BUT...
...UM... SHOULD WE MAYBE HAVE FOCUSED OUR PASSIONS ELSEWHERE...?
KELVIN
...NO COMMENT.
PEOPLE REALLY LOVED DIEDRICH AND DADDY!!
CIEL'S DADDY IS GOOOO COOL!
*HE ONLY APPEARED ON THREE PAGES.
DIEDRICH IS TOTALLY DREAMY!!
THANK YOU.
I'M HAPPY PEOPLE LOVE ME THOUGH I FEEL AS IF I HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING COOL.
HA-HA! THEY WON'T FILL MY STOMACH.
DIEDRICH IS REALLY WONDERFUL.
I LOVE CIEL'S DADDY!!
DIEDRICH! THIS!!
DIEDRICH! THAT!!
PIROPIRON CHANNNG?
A FAN E-MAIL!
AND WHEN GFANTASY WENT ON SALE...
AH!
COMPUTER
SOMEONE E-MAILED ME THEIR OPINION ABOUT THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE CHAPTER...

# Translation Notes

Page 9

**Brother Joker, sister Wendy**

In the original Japanese edition, some of the troupe members refer to Joker (and later Peter) as *aniki*, while Beast and Wendy are referred to as *aneki*. This may refer to either the familial bond that the kids from the workhouse have (as brothers and sisters) or seniority among troupe members. For example, Beast refers to Wendy as *aneki*, or "big sis", however, she clearly appears to be the older of the two. "Ol' timer"/"ol' chap" is also used as an equivalent to the Japanese word *senpai*.

Page 17

**College of Arms**

The College of Arms, also known as the Heralds' College, is one of the few remaining official institutions which continues to keep records of heraldic devices used in British society in the present day. It was created in the fifteenth century by a group of royal heralds and also has the power to confer coats of arms for England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. As Ciel mentions later on page 24, Scotland has its own heraldic authority in The Court of the Lord Lyon located in Edinburgh.

Page 19

**Asthma in Victorian England**

The medical world's definition of asthma gradually headed toward a consensus in the nineteenth century, but many physicians would chalk up the symptoms of asthma to other medical problems, and the potential fatality of asthma was often regarded with scepticism. However, this period of industrial development did bring about the invention of inhalation devices to ease the discomfort of asthma sufferers, the ancestors of the modern-day inhaler.

Page 21

**Wordsworth**

Snake is obviously very well-read. His snakes all seem to be named after famous writers. In this volume, we meet Wordsworth, most likely named for the great English Romantic poet, William Wordsworth, who was instrumental in bringing about the Romantic Age of English literature, alongside his peer, Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Page 52

**Baron Kelvin**

There was actually a real Baron Kelvin active at this time. But that is where the similarities end! Sir William Thomson, the first Baron Kelvin, was a world-renowned scientist and engineer active during the Victorian Era; he was in fact knighted by Queen Victoria herself in 1866. The unit of temperature measurement known as the Kelvin was also named for him.

Page 55

**Governor-General, viceroy**

Prince Soma using this term to refer to himself is humorous because the (British) leader of the British administration in colonial India during the Victorian Era would have been titled the same thing.

Page 72

**"Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son"**

Joker's song is actually a popular English nursery rhyme. There are two versions of the rhyme, here, Joker is singing the longer version, which is thought to be adapted from another verse which was popular in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Page 83

**Emily**

It is likely that Snake's Emily is named for the American poet Emily Dickinson, who was active from 1830 to 1886 and was a contemporary of William Wordsworth. And like her English counterpart, Dickinson, whose work went practically unread in her lifetime, is considered a keystone of the Romantic movement in American literature.

Page 126

**Baron Kelvin's speech pattern**

Belying his appearance, Baron Kelvin's way of speaking is quite jarring, for he frequently speaks like a child and employs personal pronouns that would only be used by someone much younger. It does match his childish attitude, however.

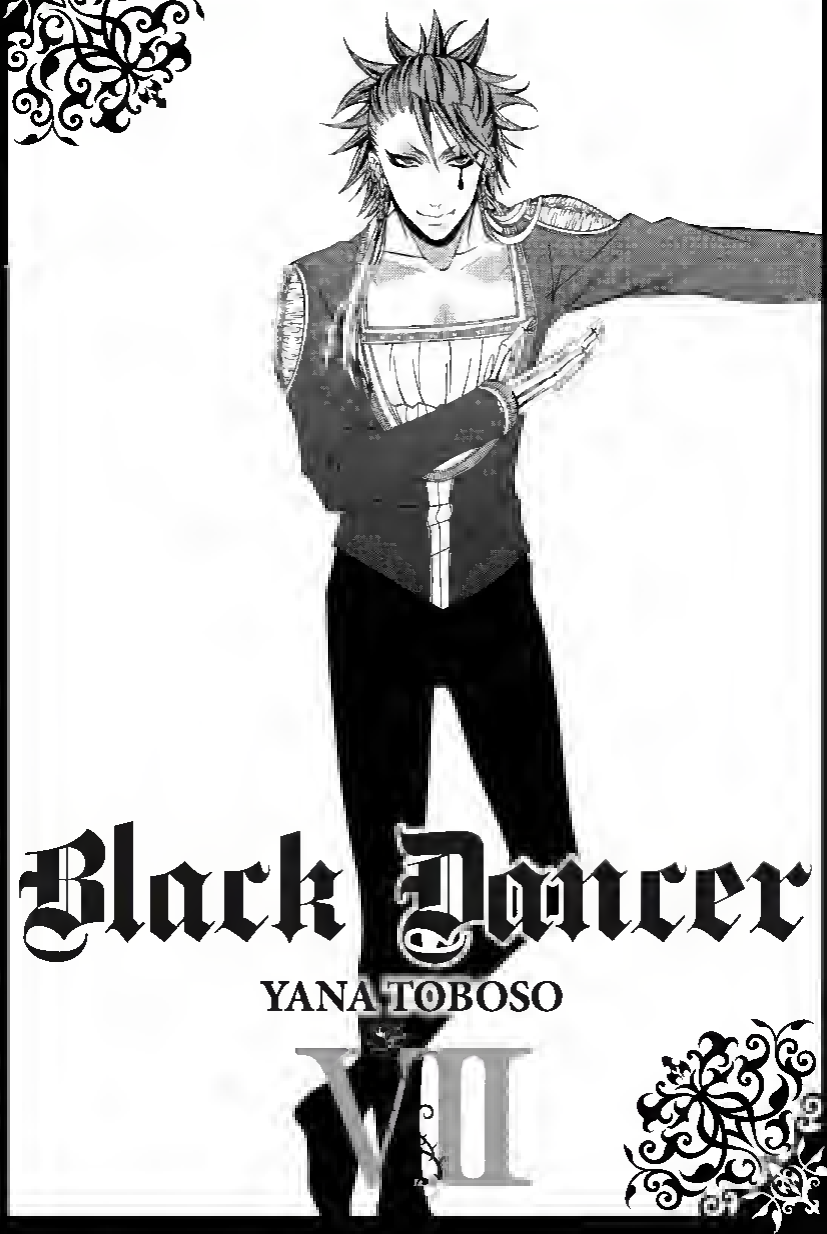
# Yana Toboso

## Author's note

It's already been two years and several months since Volume 1 was published. In this volume, I drew characters that I hadn't drawn since Volume 1, and I realised that my drawing style has changed quite a bit.

Nothing stays the same. Not myself, or the entire world; we change moment by moment.

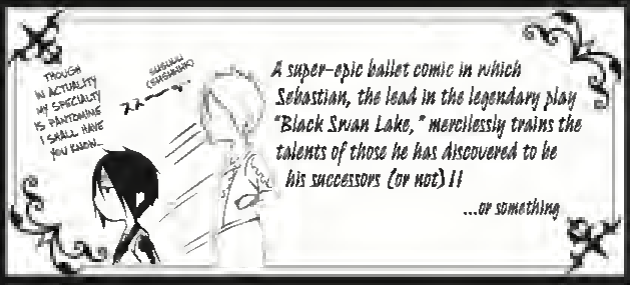
And that's what I'm thinking about as Volume 7 hits the shelves.



# Black Dancer

YANA TOBOSO

VII




*A super-epic ballet comic in which Sebastian, the lead in the legendary play "Black Swan Lake," mercilessly trains the talents of those he has discovered to be his successors (or not)!!*

*...or something*

# BLACK BUTLER 7

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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